

Survey on people's perceptions and needs of medical research

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Background & Objective

- To advance cancer research effectively, it is important to obtain the public understanding and support for research.
- People are linked to medical research in various forms, i.e., as the subjects of clinical and epidemiological studies, users of the study results, taxpayers for research grants from government, contributors of research fund, and non-expert members of IRBs.
- As the first step, we conducted an internet survey to know the general public perception and needs for medical research.

Methods

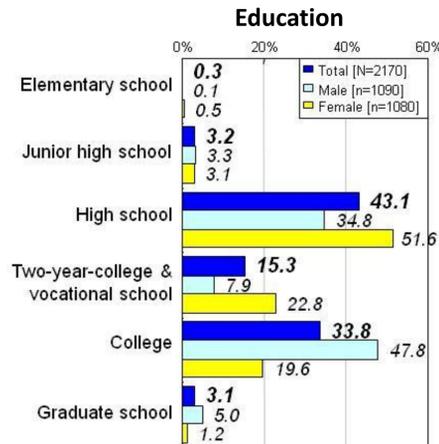
- We adopted opt-in panels to select subjects from the internet monitors aged from 20 years to 79 years.
- A total of 2,170 people participated in the survey by frequency matching for sex, age and area with Japan's population
- The survey was conducted in March 2010.

Survey items

- Positive views and negative views on medical research
- Sources of above views
- Needs for information of medical research
- Possible cooperation with research projects
- Attractive medical topics on TV

Characteristics of the respondents

Sex and age		
	N	%
Total	2,170	
Sex		
Male	1,090	50.2
Female	1,080	49.8
Age		
30-39	453	20.9
40-49	424	19.5
50-59	458	21.1
60-69	499	23.0
70-79	336	15.5



Results & Discussion

Fig. 1: "Do you have any positive image on medical research?"

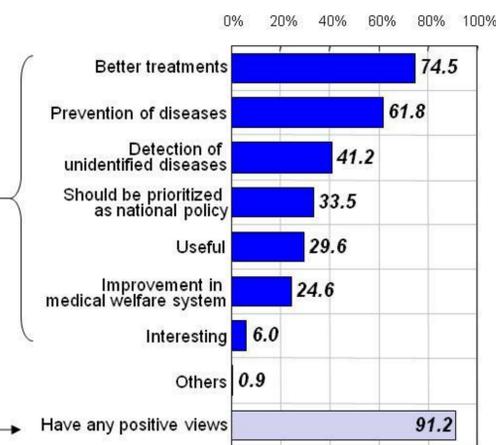
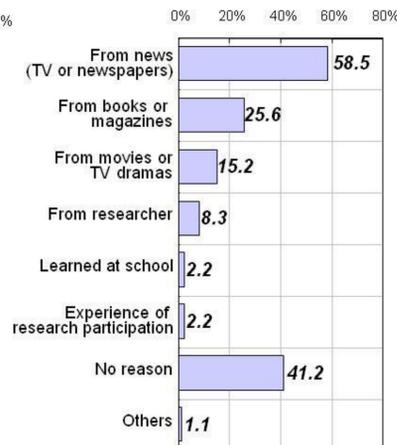


Fig. 2: "How do you have such positive image?"



*Multiple answers (N=1,981)

Fig. 3: "Do you have any negative image on medical research?"

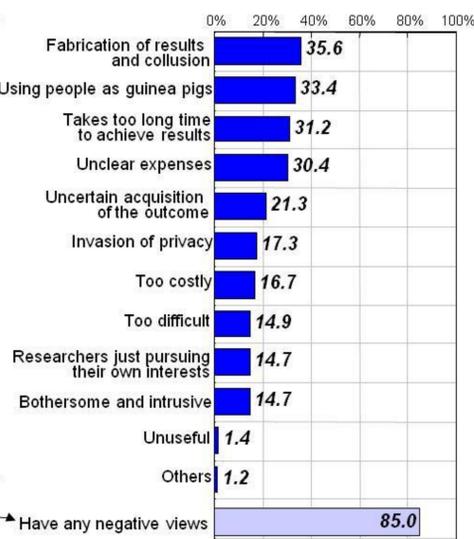
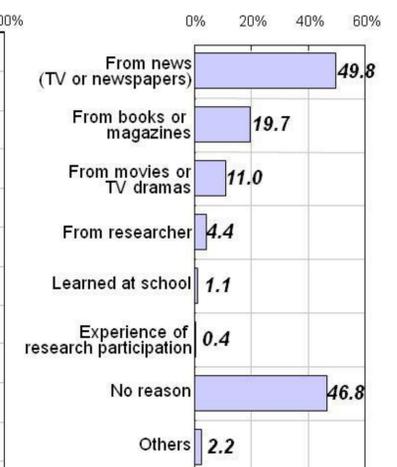


Fig. 4: "How do you have such negative image?"



*Multiple answers (N=1,850)

Fig. 5-2: "To what extent, do you cooperate with medical research?"

	Incorporating research results into daily life	Participation in Epidemiological studies	Participation in Clinical trials	Participation in Intervention studies	Evaluation of studies	Joining an IRB committee	Donate for medical researches	Have any intention to cooperate
Total (N=2,170)	55.6	53.8	28.9	25.4	18.0	11.9	4.6	86.0
sex * age								
Male 30's (n=232)	47.0	50.4	32.8	22.0	29.3	17.2	5.2	81.9
Male 40's (n=213)	51.2	50.2	31.9	20.7	22.5	15.0	4.7	80.8
Male 50's (n=237)	43.9	44.3	32.5	20.3	18.6	12.2	3.0	79.7
Male 60's (n=242)	52.5	54.1	35.5	23.1	18.6	19.0	4.1	90.9
Male 70's (n=166)	62.7	53.6	31.3	31.9	15.7	14.5	7.2	91.6
Female 30's (n=221)	60.6	66.1	27.1	30.3	15.4	5.9	4.1	88.7
Female 40's (n=211)	56.9	64.9	25.6	26.5	16.1	10.4	2.8	87.7
Female 50's (n=221)	63.8	55.7	25.3	27.6	12.7	10.4	3.6	88.2
Female 60's (n=257)	64.2	51.0	24.5	27.6	16.7	8.2	5.1	89.5
Female 70's (n=170)	54.7	47.6	21.2	25.9	11.8	5.3	7.6	80.6
Education								
Junior high school (Elementary school) (n=76)	47.4	52.6	27.6	21.1	18.4	7.9	1.3	78.9
High school (n=936)	54.4	53.1	25.3	22.9	13.6	7.2	3.6	83.4
Two-year college (n=332)	61.7	56.3	28.0	27.4	13.3	8.1	4.8	88.9
College (n=733)	55.5	53.3	33.8	28.1	23.7	18.6	5.9	88.4
Graduate school (n=68)	52.9	60.3	36.8	27.9	39.7	32.4	8.8	92.6

Fig. 6: "Do you have anything to know about medical research?"

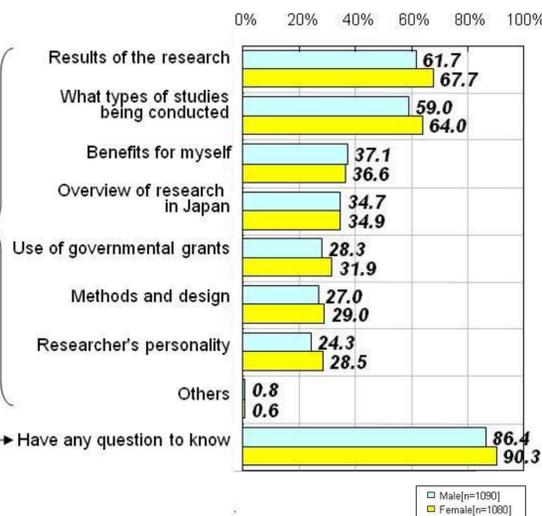


Fig. 7: "What types of TV program concerning medical topics do you feel attractive?"

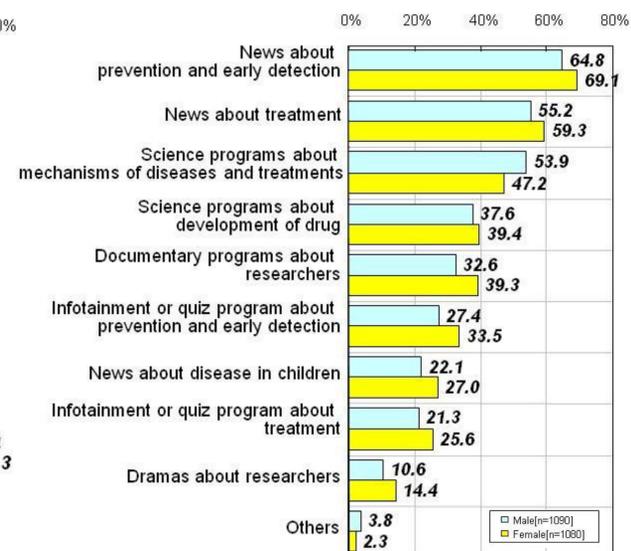
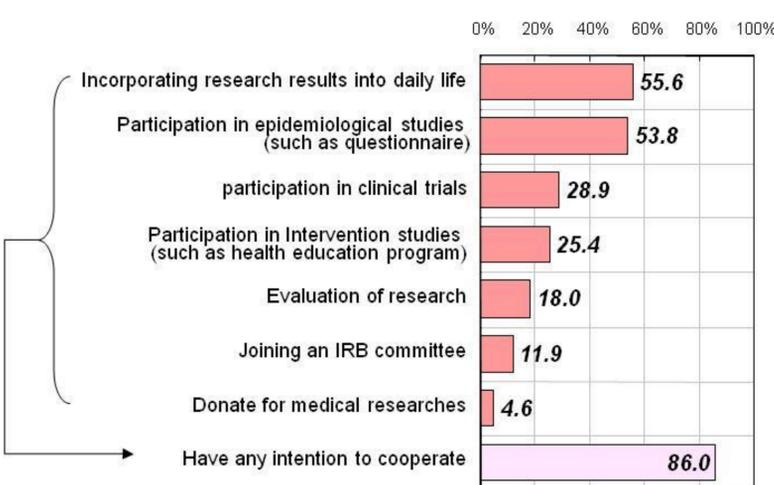


Fig. 5-1: "To what extent, do you cooperate with medical research?"



- Most respondents had positive views of medical research, although nearly 30% responded negatively such as 'fabrication of results', 'using people as guinea pigs', and these views were often influenced by TV or existed as an indistinct impression, not nurtured directly through their experiences of research participation (Fig.1-4).
- Over 80% answered they had any intention to cooperate with medical research. Over 53.2% respondents answered they may participate in epidemiological studies, but less than 30% in clinical trials and preventive intervention studies (Fig.5).
- Over 60% required information such as 'results of the studies', 'what types of studies being conducted' (Fig.6).
- As attractive medical topics on TV, respondents required information such as the 'early detection of disease', 'prevention', 'mechanisms of diseases and treatments' and they prefer news shows and scientific programs to infotainment and dramas (Fig.7).
- The results of this study will be basic data to discuss how cancer research information service should be.
- Since the representative nature of web-based survey results regarding common items has been demonstrated in previous studies, the results of this study, which was limited to web users, may be generalized to some degree.
- Based on these findings, specific methods for the provision of information will be discussed in the coming year.