



TITLE:

Attitudes toward and current status of disclosure of secondary findings from next-generation sequencing: a nation-wide survey of clinical genetics professionals in Japan

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1 **Attitudes toward and current status of disclosure of secondary findings from**
2 **next-generation sequencing: A nation-wide survey of clinical genetics professionals in**
3 **Japan**

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47 None of the authors have conflict of interest to declare.

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56

57 **Abstract**

58 The management of secondary findings (SFs), which are beyond the intended purpose of the
59 analysis, from clinical comprehensive genomic analysis using next generation sequencing
60 (NGS) presents challenges. Policy statements regarding their clinical management have been
61 announced in Japan and other countries. In Japan, however, the current status of and attitudes of
62 clinical genetics professionals toward reporting them are unclear. We conducted a questionnaire
63 survey of clinical genetics professionals at two time points (2013 and 2019) to determine the
64 enforcement of the SF management policy in cases of comprehensive genetic analysis of
65 intractable diseases and clinical cancer genome profiling testing. According to the survey
66 findings, 40% and 70% of the respondents stated in the 2013 and 2019 surveys, respectively,
67 that they had a SF policy in the field of intractable diseases, indicating that SF policy awareness
68 in Japan has changed significantly in recent years. Furthermore, a total of 80% of respondents
69 stated that their facility had established a policy for clinical cancer genome profiling testing in
70 the 2019 survey. In both surveys, the policies included the selection criteria for genes to be
71 disclosed and the procedure to return SFs, followed by recommendations and proposals
72 regarding SFs in Japan and other countries. To create a better list of the genes to be disclosed,
73 further examination is needed considering the characteristics of each analysis.

74

75 Introduction

76 In clinical exome and genome sequencing using next-generation sequencing (NGS), it is
77 possible to identify and report secondary findings (SFs), which are findings beyond the intended
78 purpose of the analysis, generated due to the nature of this technique. The discovery of SFs is an
79 issue of concern as they may reveal that the patient is likely to develop a disease unrelated to the
80 indication for ordering the sequencing but of medical value for the patient's future health.

81 Management of SFs before the introduction of the American College of Medical Genetics 82 (ACMG SF v2.0) recommendations

83 In March 2013, the ACMG published the recommendations for the reporting of SFs identified
84 from comprehensive genomic analysis using NGS [1]. Under the assumption that NGS is
85 clinically used, the ACMG recommends that laboratories performing comprehensive genetic
86 analysis using NGS and interpreting analytical results should report clinically actionable SFs,
87 regardless of the intention or age of the patients, and lists 24 diseases and 56 genes to be
88 reported as SFs. In 2014, the ACMG updated the recommendation to include the option to
89 “Opt-Out” of receiving SFs [2]. In response to the announcement of these recommendations,
90 discussions and studies on the reporting of SFs from analyses using NGS were initiated mainly
91 among experts in the field of medical genetics. Some experts insist that the right of the patient
92 to remain in ignorance should be respected [3], whereas others assert that the disclosure of SFs
93 of clinical utility should be prioritized over the patient's autonomy [4].

94 In Japan, the following description was added to the guidelines known as the Ethical
95 Guidelines for Human Genome/Gene Analysis Research [5], revised and enforced in 2013: “The
96 research director has to decide the policy on the disclosure of SFs and explain them to the donor
97 or parent/guardian to make them understand when informed consent is obtained.” However, the
98 policy for the reporting of SFs was not actively discussed in Japan at that time, and the status of
99 and attitudes toward reporting SFs were also unclear. Findings beyond the intended purpose of
100 the comprehensive genetic analysis are termed SFs in this manuscript. However, when the first

101 ACMG recommendation was published, these findings were termed incidental findings (IFs).
102 Subsequently, ACMG updated the recommendation and changed the terminology from IFs to
103 SFs because the genes in these tests are routinely analyzed intentionally, in contrast to genetic
104 variants which are found incidentally [6].

105 **Management of SFs after the introduction of the ACMG SF v2.0 recommendations**

106 As described above, the ACMG updated the recommendations as ACMG SF v2.0 and revised
107 the list of actionable genes to include 27 diseases and 59 genes in 2016 [6]. Subsequently, the
108 Japan Society of Human Genetics (JSHG) announced the statement regarding genomic analysis
109 using NGS in 2017 [7] and the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED)
110 released the proposal concerning the information transmission process in genomic medicine in
111 2018, which was updated in 2019 [8]. The scope of this proposal includes the field of rare
112 diseases and clinical cancer genome profiling testing [9]. Regarding clinical cancer genome
113 profiling testing in Japan, two commercial tests for cancer genome profiling have been approved
114 as clinical tests, which are reimbursed by the national health insurance [10]. Therefore, as
115 comprehensive genetic testing in clinical use, including cancer genome profiling, will be
116 common in the near future it requires practical consideration of the management of SFs.
117 However, the implementation of these recommendations and proposals in the clinical setting
118 remains unclear.

119 The objectives of this study were to clarify the present status of reporting SFs from
120 comprehensive genetic analysis of intractable diseases and clinical cancer genome profiling
121 testing and to determine the attitudes of clinical genetics professionals toward reporting SFs in
122 Japan. Additionally, regarding the comprehensive genetic analysis of intractable diseases, we
123 examined chronological changes in the reporting of SFs before and after the introduction of the
124 ACMG SF v2.0 recommendations in Japan.

125

126 **Materials and Methods**

127 **Study design and methodology**

128 We conducted a cross-sectional postal questionnaire survey. The participants of this survey were
129 Japanese board-certified instructors of Clinical Geneticists and Certified Genetic Counselors,
130 both of which are certified by the Japan Society of Human Genetics and Japanese Society for
131 Genetic Counseling. Collaborators and persons with unknown addresses were excluded. This
132 study was approved by the ELSI (ethical, legal and social issues) Committee of the Japanese
133 Society for Genetic Counseling (JSGC). Considering that this study was a self-administered
134 questionnaire survey distributed to genetics professionals, institutional review board approval
135 was not required.

136 This study was conducted at two time points. Survey 1 was conducted from October 2013 to
137 December 2013 prior to the publication of the ACMG SF v2.0 recommendations. Survey 2 was
138 conducted from May 2019 to July 2019 following the publication of the ACMG SF v2.0
139 recommendations.

140 The execution of these surveys was approved by the Board Certification Committee for
141 Clinical Geneticists and Japanese Association of Certified Genetic Counselors. A survey request
142 statement, questionnaire, and self-addressed envelope were sent to the subjects, and the
143 responses were collected by postal mail. The statement outlined background information on SFs
144 in the United States and Japan to provide the participants with specific knowledge regarding
145 SFs before answering the questionnaire. A reminder post card or mail was sent after the deadline
146 for providing responses in order to increase the response rate.

147 The questionnaire was prepared based on previous studies [11-14] and the outcomes of the
148 discussion with the members of the Social, Ethical, and Legal Issues Committee of JSGC.

149 **Detailed survey information**

150 *Survey 1(2013)*

151 Scope: SFs from genomic sequencing analysis for rare diseases. Definition of SFs: secondary
152 findings detected beyond the initially intended purpose of the analysis. Question items (n=15):

153 respondents' characteristics (n=3) and experience with the clinical management of SFs (n=12).

154 *Survey 2 (2019)*

155 Scope: SFs from genomic sequencing analysis for rare diseases and cancer genome profiling.

156 Definition of SFs in rare diseases: detection of variants confirmed to be pathogenic that cause

157 symptoms other than those targeted to be diagnosed. Definition of SFs in clinical cancer

158 genome profiling: detection of germline variants confirmed to be pathogenic. Question items

159 (n=29): respondents' characteristics (n=3), experience with the clinical management of SFs in

160 rare diseases (n=11) and cancer genome profiling (n=15).

161 **Statistical analysis**

162 Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 20.0 (Armonk,

163 NY, IBM Corp). Participants with any missing values were excluded from the analysis. The

164 frequency distribution and response rate were investigated in each question.

165

166 **Results**

167 **Response rate**

168 In Survey 1, a total of 207 of the 389 subjects (53.2%) responded, which included 145 of the

169 264 certified instructors of clinical genetics (54.9%), and 62 of the 125 certified genetic

170 counselors (49.6%). In Survey 2, a total of 245 of the 533 subjects (46.0%) responded, which

171 included 141 of the 294 certified instructors of clinical genetics (48.0%), and 104 of the 239

172 certified genetic counselors (43.5%).

173 **Respondents' characteristics**

174 Of the 207 respondents, 75 (36.2%) were affiliated with the Department of Medical Genetics,
175 and 84 (40.6%) were in their 50s, accounting for the largest response rate in Survey 1 (Table 1).

176 The same trend was observed in Survey 2, in which 129 of the 245 respondents (52.7%) were

177 affiliated with the Department of Medical Genetics, and 88 (35.9%) were in their 50s,

178 accounting for the largest response rate in Survey 2 (Table 1).

179 **Work experience related to the reporting of SFs from NGS analyses**

180 In Survey 1, conducted before the introduction of the ACMG SF v2.0 recommendations, 29.0%
181 (60/207) of the respondents were involved in genetic analyses using NGS. The majority of the
182 respondents, 65.5% (38/58; two invalid responses were excluded), were mainly involved
183 through “the clinical use of the results of genetic analyses,” while 64.4% of the respondents
184 (38/59; one invalid answer was excluded), were involved in “whole exome analyses for
185 diagnosis and treatment of intractable disease,” the most frequent genetic analysis (Figure 1-A,
186 Figure 2-A).

187 In Survey 2, conducted after the introduction of the ACMG SF v2.0 recommendations, 66.1%
188 (162/245) of the respondents were involved in genetic analyses using NGS. The majority of the
189 respondents, 63.3% (103/162), were mainly involved through “conducting the pre-test informed
190 consent/disclosing the result to the patient,” whereas 19.1% of the respondents (31/162) were
191 involved in “cancer genome profiling,” the most frequently used genetic analysis. Furthermore,
192 42.0% (68/162) of the respondents were involved in “whole exome/genome analyses and panel
193 testing for diagnosis and treatment of intractable diseases,” while 38.9% (63/162) were involved
194 in “not only exome/genome analyses and/or panel testing for the diagnosis and treatment of
195 intractable disease but also cancer genome profiling testing” (Figure 1-B, Figure 2-B).

196 Therefore, 131 respondents had experience of being involved in comprehensive genetic analysis
197 for the diagnosis and treatment of intractable diseases and 94 respondents had experience of
198 being involved in cancer genome profiling testing.

199 **Comprehensive genetic analysis for the diagnosis and treatment of intractable diseases**

200 *Experience with the clinical management of SFs before and after the introduction of the ACMG*
201 *SF v2.0 recommendations*

202 Notably, of the 60 respondents who had experience of being involved in genomic analyses
203 using NGS before the introduction of the ACMG SF v2.0 recommendations, only 3 (5.1%,
204 [3/59]; one invalid answer was excluded) had experience in the clinical management of SFs.

205 This confirmed that only a small number of respondents had experience in the clinical
206 management of SFs, even though they had experience in genetic analyses. Moreover, one of the
207 3 respondents disclosed the SFs, which were known variants associated with skeletal dysplasia,
208 to the patients.

209 On the other hand, of the 131 respondents who had experience in genetic analyses using NGS
210 after the introduction of the ACMG SF v2.0 recommendations, 26.7% (35/131) had experience
211 in the clinical management of SFs. Furthermore, 80.0% (28/35) of the respondents with
212 experience in the clinical management of SFs disclosed SFs to the patient. The disclosed SFs
213 were mainly variants related to hereditary cancer syndromes, such as hereditary breast and
214 ovarian cancer syndrome, and hereditary cardiovascular diseases.

215 *Policy for the clinical management on SFs*

216 Of the 60 respondents who had the experience of being involved in genetic analyses using
217 NGS before the introduction of the ACMG SF v2.0 recommendations, 37.3% (22/59; one
218 invalid answer was excluded) answered that “there is no institutional policy, but a policy is set
219 in each analysis,” while 5.1% (3/59) answered that “there is an institutional policy,” (Table 2-A)
220 which clarified that some policy was established for managing SFs in 42.4% (25/59). Of the 25
221 respondents who answered that there were some policies on SF management, 80.0% (20/25)
222 mainly involved in whole exome or whole genome analyses, and 20.0% (5/25) mainly involved
223 in panel analyses. Regarding the detailed contents of the policy, 41.7% of the respondents
224 (10/24; one invalid answer was excluded) answered that “a clinically useful SF is disclosed,”
225 accounting for the highest response rate, whereas 29.2% (7/24) answered that “all SFs are not
226 disclosed regardless of the clinical usefulness,” and 65.0% (6/24) selected “other,” (Figure 3)
227 which clarified that the policy on the clinical management of SFs differed among genetic
228 analyses and institutions. Of the respondents who selected “other,” the most frequently
229 described content was “disclosure policy of SFs is decided by the Ethics Committee.”

230 Of the 131 respondents who had the experience of being involved in comprehensive analyses

231 using NGS after the introduction of the ACMG SF v2.0 recommendations, 48.1% (62/129; two
232 invalid answers were excluded) answered that “there is no institutional policy, but a policy is set
233 in each analysis,” while 17.8% (23/129) answered that “there is an institutional policy,” (Table
234 2-A) which clarified that some policy was established for handing SFs, based on the responses
235 of 65.9% (85/129) of the respondents. Regarding the detailed contents of the policy, 69.4%
236 (59/85) of the respondents answered that “a clinically useful SF is disclosed,” accounting for the
237 highest rate (Figure 3).

238 *Correspondence to patients*

239 Of the 25 respondents who answered that there were some policies on SF management before
240 the introduction of the ACMG SF v2.0 recommendations, 84.0% (21/25) answered that the
241 policy was explained to patients when informed consent was obtained, while 16.0% (4/25)
242 answered that the policy was not explained. Of the 21 respondents who explained the policy
243 when informed consent was obtained, 70.0% (14/20; one invalid answer was excluded)
244 confirmed the patient’s intention to disclose SFs, whereas 30.0% (6/20) did not confirm it.
245 These results clarified that an explanation of the policy to the patients followed by confirming
246 their intention was the main way of correspondence to patients.

247 Of the 85 respondents who answered that there were some policies on SF management after
248 the introduction of the ACMG SF v2.0 recommendations, 92.9% (79/85) answered that the
249 policy was explained to the patients when informed consent was obtained, while 7.1% (6/85)
250 answered that it was not explained. Of the 79 respondents who explained the policy when
251 informed consent was obtained, 68 (86.1%) confirmed the patient’s intention to disclose SFs,
252 while 11 (13.9%) did not confirm it. Furthermore, of the 68 respondents who confirmed the
253 patient’s intention to disclose SFs, 89.6% (60/67; one invalid answer was excluded) provided
254 the opportunity to opt-out. These results clarified that an explanation of the policy to the patients
255 followed by confirming their intention and providing the opportunity of opt-out was the main
256 way of correspondence to patients.

257

258 **Cancer genome profiling testing (After ACMG SF v2.0 recommendations)**

259 *Experience in the clinical management of SFs*

260 Of the 94 respondents who had experience of being involved in cancer genome profiling
 261 testing, 43.0% (40/93; one invalid answer was excluded) had experience with SF clinical
 262 management, while 57.0% (53/93) did not have, which revealed that around 40% of the
 263 respondents had experience in SFs clinical management. Thirty-one (77.5%) of the 40
 264 respondents with experience of SF clinical management disclosed it to the patient, and the
 265 disclosed SFs included known variants associated with hereditary cancer syndromes, such as
 266 hereditary breast and ovarian cancer syndrome and Li-Fraumeni syndrome.

267 *Policy for the clinical management of SFs*

268 Of the 94 respondents who had experience of being involved in cancer genome profiling
 269 testing, 32 (34.0%) answered that “there is no institutional policy, but a policy is set in each
 270 analysis,” whereas 40 (42.6%) answered that “there is an institutional policy,”(Table 2-B) which
 271 clarified that some policy was established for handing SFs in 72 (76.6%) of the responses.
 272 Regarding the detailed contents of the policy, 44.9% (31/69; three invalid answers were
 273 excluded) of the respondents answered that “a clinically useful SF is disclosed (including other
 274 than cancer-susceptibility gene),” accounting for the highest rate, and 36.2% (25/69) answered
 275 that “a clinically useful SF is disclosed (including cancer-susceptibility gene only),” accounting
 276 for the second highest rate (Figure 4), which clarified that clinically useful SFs are disclosed in
 277 general, however, there was controversy over whether to disclose only cancer-susceptibility
 278 genes.

279 *Correspondence to patients*

280 Of the 72 respondents who answered that there were some policies on the clinical management
 281 of SFs, 22.2% (16/72) answered that they were not involved in obtaining informed consent from
 282 patients as that was the responsibility of the physician in charge, while 77.8% (56/72) answered

283 that they were sometimes/always involved in obtaining informed consent from patients, which
284 revealed that around 80% of the respondents were involved in obtaining informed consent from
285 patients. Of the 56 respondents who answered that they were involved in obtaining informed
286 consent from patients, 96.4% (53/55, one invalid answer was excluded) answered that the policy
287 was explained to patients when informed consent was obtained. Of the 53 respondents who
288 explained the policy when informed consent was obtained, 98.1% (51/52; one invalid answer
289 was excluded) confirmed the patient's intention to disclose SFs. Furthermore, of the 51
290 respondents who confirmed the patient's intention to disclose SFs, 96.1% (49/51) provided the
291 opportunity to opt-out. These results clarified that an explanation of the policy to patients
292 followed by confirming their intention and providing the opportunity to opt-out was the main
293 way of correspondence to patients.

294

295 **Discussion**

296 This JSGC study was a nationwide survey on SFs identified in comprehensive genomic
297 analyses using NGS. The results provide insights and fundamental knowledge regarding the
298 status and attitudes of genetics professionals toward returning SFs in Japan.

299 **Comprehensive genetic analysis for diagnosis and treatment of intractable diseases**

300 The survey for comprehensive genetic analysis of intractable diseases was conducted at two
301 time points, before and after the introduction of the ACMG SF v2.0 recommendations, in 2013
302 (Survey 1) and 2019 (Survey 2), respectively.

303 Approximately 40% and 70% of the respondents answered that their facility had established a
304 policy regarding the clinical management of SFs in Survey 1 and Survey 2, respectively,
305 demonstrating an increasing focus on the management of SFs in Japan. In most of the policies,
306 the SFs to be disclosed were limited to those with clinical utility. The stipulated procedure of
307 returning SFs included: 1. informing the SF management policy, 2. confirmation of the patient's
308 intention regarding disclosure, 3. guarantee of opt out opportunities. This procedure follows the

309 ACMG recommendations and proposal concerning the information transmission process in
310 genomic medicine in Japan.
311 The percentage of respondents who had experience with dealing with SFs increased from 5%
312 in Survey 1, to 30% in Survey 2. As mentioned above, the establishment of institutional policies
313 for the clinical management on SFs may have contributed to this trend. The returned SFs
314 included SFs related to cardiovascular diseases and hereditary cancers. The genes to be
315 disclosed were decided following the recommendations and proposals made in Japan and other
316 countries [6, 15].

317 Comprehensive analyses of intractable diseases using NGS are not performed in the clinical
318 setting in Japan, with minor exceptions. The Medical Care Act of Japan stipulates that clinical
319 tests should be performed in registered clinical laboratories to secure their accuracy [16]. The
320 proposal concerning the information transmission process in genomic medicine also states that,
321 "when returning the results of a research (primary and secondary findings) for clinical purpose,
322 in principle, a confirmation test using recollected blood in registered clinical laboratory is
323 necessary." [8] Therefore, it is necessary to re-evaluate the selection of genes to be disclosed
324 from the viewpoint of accessibility to the confirmatory clinical testing. From the viewpoint of
325 clinical utility, based on the recent clinical application of various treatments for hereditary
326 diseases, such as enzyme replacement therapy and chaperone therapy for inborn errors of
327 metabolism [17, 18] and gene therapy, antisense therapy and siRNA therapy for neuromuscular
328 diseases [19-21], it may be necessary to form a consensus in Japan on what type of genes are
329 considered actionable.

330 **Cancer genome profiling testing**

331 Cancer genome profiling testing had not been introduced into actual clinical practice in Japan
332 as of 2013, and interest among genetic medicine specialists was low at that time. Therefore, this
333 survey was conducted only in 2019, after the introduction of the ACMG SF v2.0
334 recommendations (Survey 2). Although approximately 80% of the respondents answered that

335 their facility had established some kind of policy regarding the experience in cancer genome
336 profiling testing, they responded that there was no policy for returning SFs. The reasons for this
337 might be that Survey 2 was conducted in May-July 2019, shortly after the publication of the
338 proposal concerning the information transmission process in genomic medicine in Japan, and
339 before the start of insurance coverage for cancer genome profiling testing. Therefore, it is
340 possible that some facilities had not yet taken action to ensure the implementation of the
341 guidelines for the clinical management of SFs. According to the responses, the most common
342 selection criterion for the return of SFs was clinical utility. However, there was controversy over
343 whether to only disclose cancer-susceptibility genes. Approximately 40% of the respondents had
344 experience with the clinical management of SFs. Most of their experiences were related to the
345 disclosure of SFs in hereditary cancer genes. The reasons for the institutional differences
346 regarding whether to disclose non-cancer-susceptibility genes were the specification of the
347 profiling test (i.e., whether the panel included non-cancer-susceptibility genes or not) and the
348 policy of the expert panel.

349 The procedure of returning SFs in clinical cancer genome profiling testing also follows the
350 ACMG recommendations and proposal concerning the information transmission process in
351 genomic medicine in Japan.

352 Cancer genome medicine in Japan is provided at core hospitals for cancer genome medicine,
353 which play a central role in the cancer genome medicine provision system (12 institutions), hub
354 hospitals, which can complete the medical interpretation of cancer genome profiling at their
355 own facilities (33 institutions), and liaison hospitals, which provide cancer genome medical care
356 in cooperation with core hospitals and/or hub hospitals (161 institutions) [22, 23]. Two types of
357 cancer genome profiling tests are covered by the national health insurance system since June
358 2019, and the demand for clinical cancer genome profiling testing is expected to increase further
359 in the future. Therefore, one of the problems in the proper clinical management of SFs is the
360 lack of resources for clinical genetics specialists. Hence, the proper management of SFs requires

361 standardization of the information transmission process. This study revealed that the policies of
362 the facilities regarding the clinical management on SFs were generally standardized. However,
363 there were differences in the selection criteria for the genes to be disclosed, related to whether
364 or not to only include cancer-susceptibility genes. With regard to clinical cancer genome
365 profiling testing, clinical genetics specialists and clinical oncologists should discuss the list of
366 the genes to be disclosed while referring to previously published lists, such as the Potentially
367 Actionable SFs Gene List [24] among proposals concerning the information transmission
368 process in genomic medicine.

369 **Summary of the survey findings**

- 370 • There was a large increase in the number of respondents who reported that an institutional
371 policy was implemented for the disclosure of SFs from the comprehensive analysis of
372 intractable diseases, following the introduction of the ACMG SF v2.0 recommendations.
- 373 • The majority of respondents stated that their facility had established some sort of policy for
374 clinical cancer genome profiling testing at the time of Survey 2 (May 2019).
- 375 • The policies, including the selection criteria of the genes to be disclosed, and the procedure for
376 returning SF followed the recommendations and proposals regarding SFs in Japan and other
377 countries.

378

379 This survey demonstrated that the policies for the clinical management of SFs from the
380 comprehensive analysis of intractable diseases and clinical cancer genome profiling testing,
381 followed Japanese and international SF recommendations and proposals. Considering that only
382 40% of the respondents stated that they had a policy on SFs in the field of intractable diseases at
383 the time of the 2013 survey, the awareness of SFs in Japan has changed significantly in recent
384 years. To create a better disclosure gene list, it is necessary to consider the respective
385 characteristics of the comprehensive intractable disease test and the clinical cancer genome
386 profiling test. We hope that this survey provides a basis for further practical discussions on the

387 clinical management of SFs in Japan.

388

389 **Limitations**

390 The response rate of Survey 1 and 2 was approximately 50%. Due to non-respondent bias, the
391 result of this survey may not correctly reflect the overall conditions in Japan. Additionally, in
392 this survey, we received responses from individual genetics professionals in Japan, not facilities.
393 Therefore, there is a possibility that multiple people from the same facility may have responded,
394 resulting in a duplicate count of the institutional policies. Hence, the results should be
395 interpreted with caution considering this limitation.

396

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403

404 **Conflict of Interest**

405 The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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480

481 **Titles and legends to figures**

482

483 Figure 1. Main ways of involvement in genetic analyses using next-generation sequencing.

484 Black bars represent the question response rate. A) Survey 1 responses (n=58). B) Survey 2
485 responses (n=162).

486

487 Figure 2. Types of genetic analyses in which subjects are involved at a high rate.

488 Black bars represent the question response rate. A) Survey 1 responses (n=59). B) Survey 2
489 responses (n=162).

490

491 Figure 3. Detailed contents of the comprehensive genetic analysis for the diagnosis and
492 treatment of intractable diseases policy.

493 Black bars indicate the question response rate in Survey 1 (n=24). Gray bars indicate the
494 question response rate in Survey 2 (n=85).

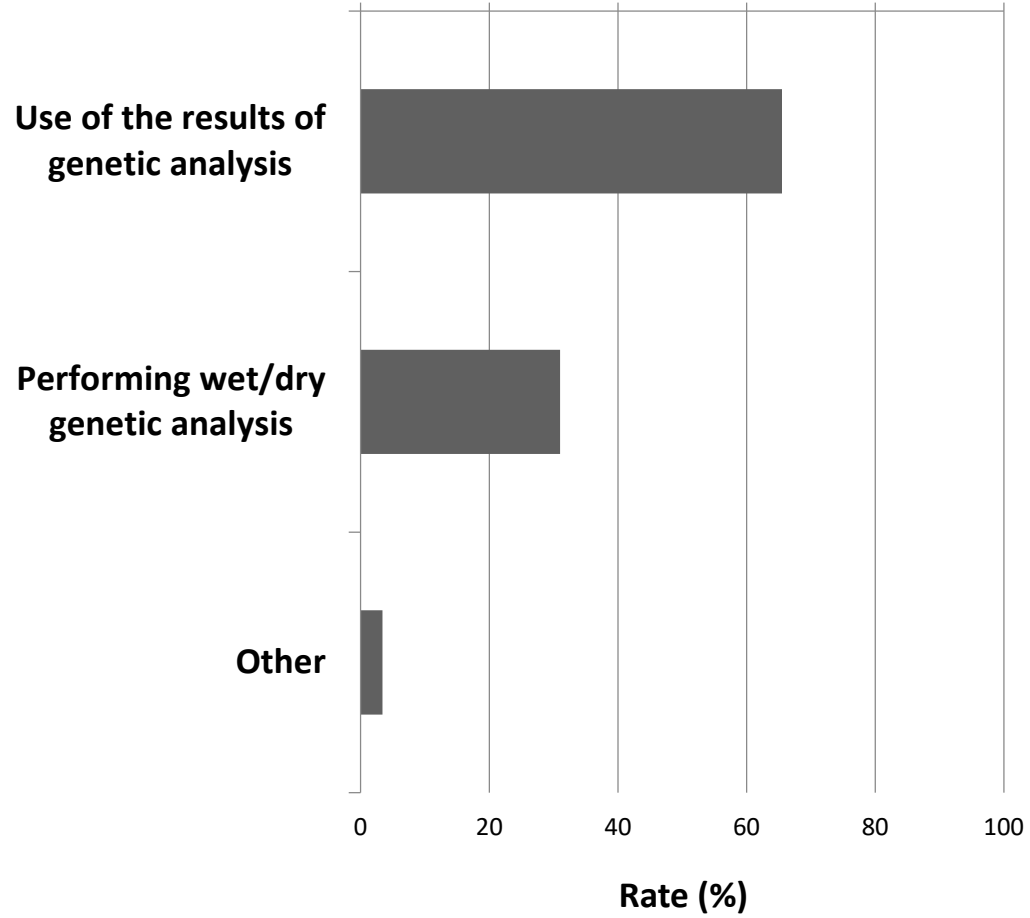
495

496 Figure 4. Detailed contents of the clinical cancer genome profiling testing policy (n=69).

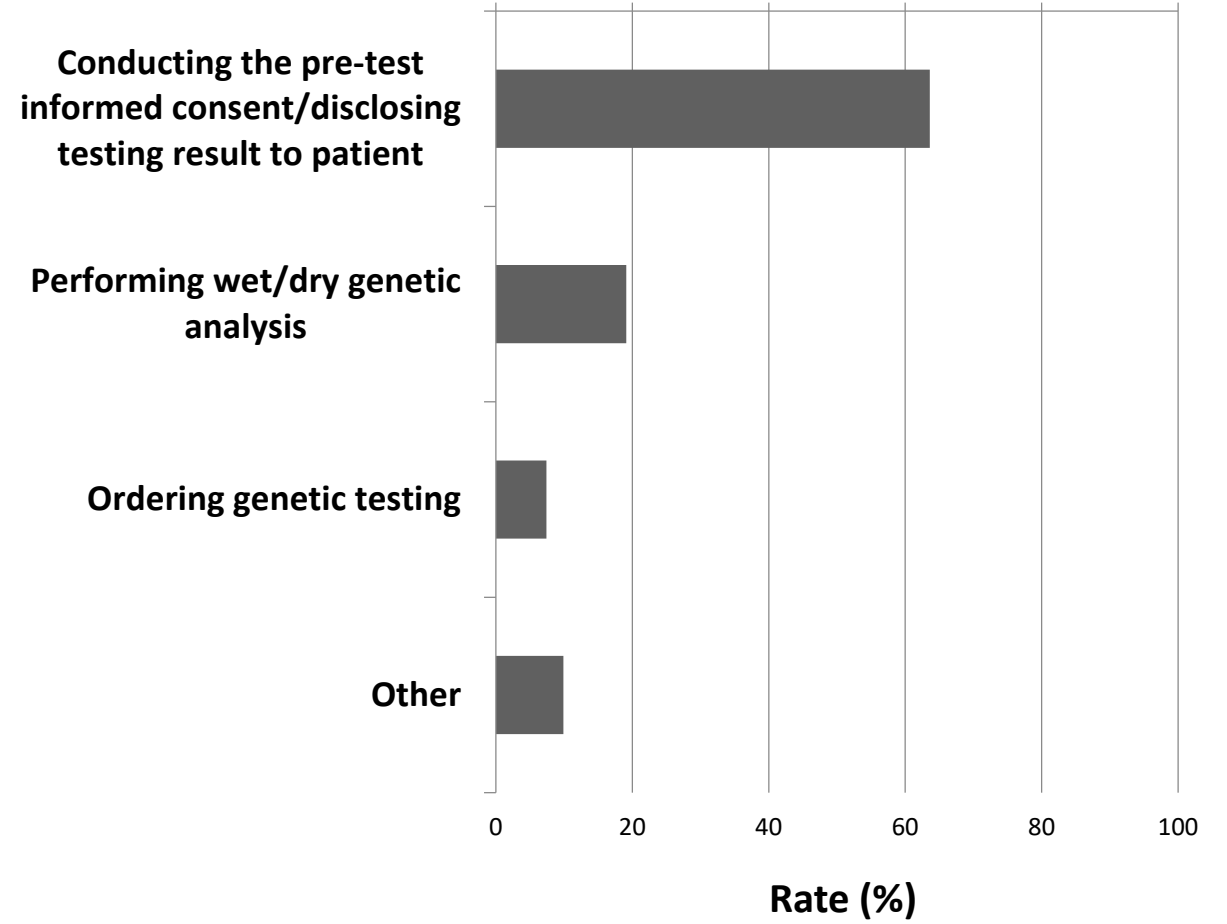
497 Black bars represent the question response rate.

498

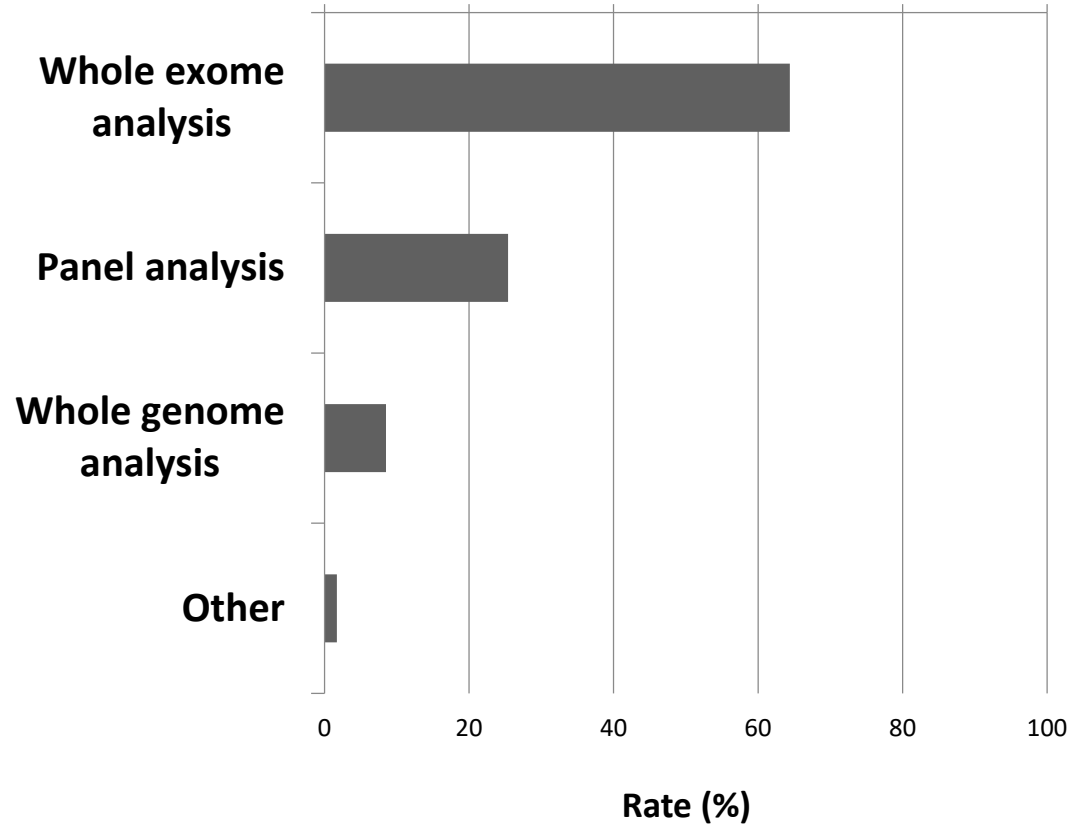
A: Survey 1



B: Survey 2



A: Survey 1



B: Survey 2

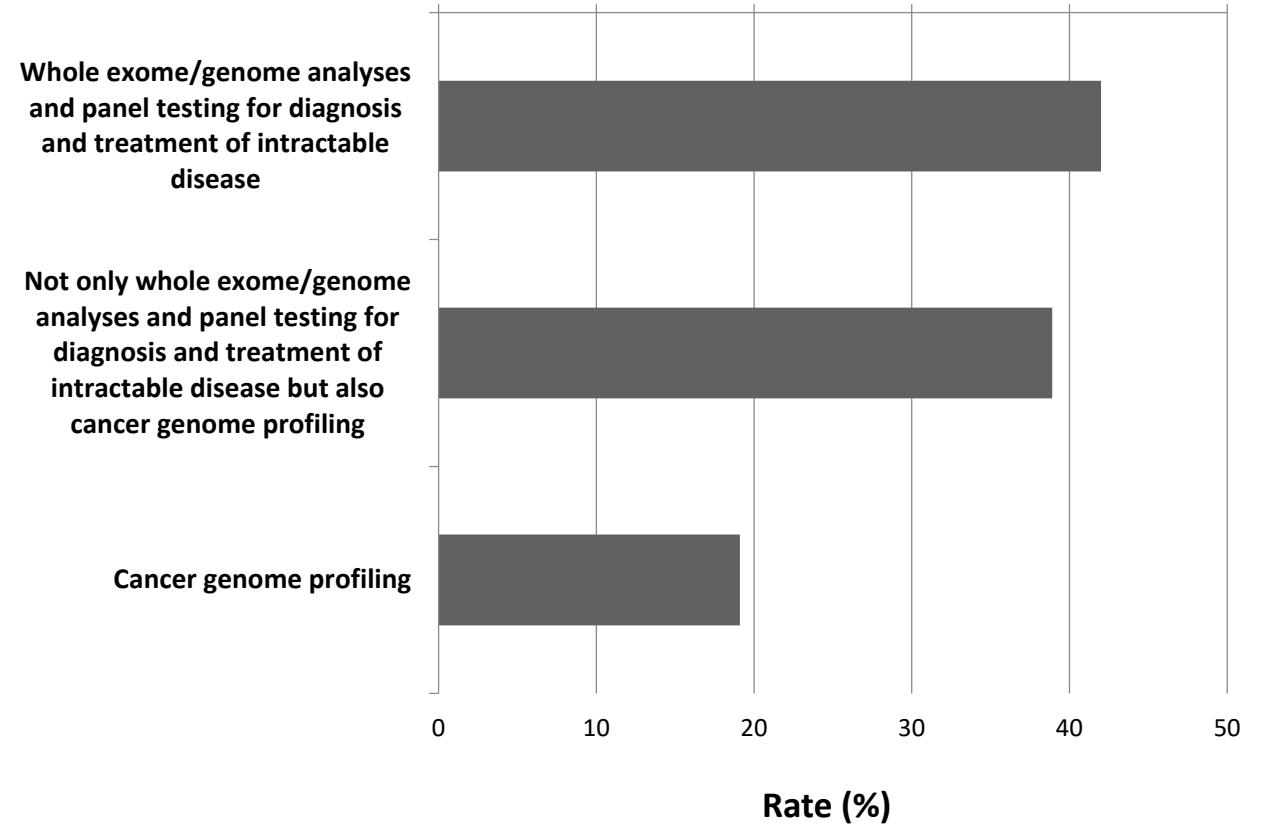


Figure 3

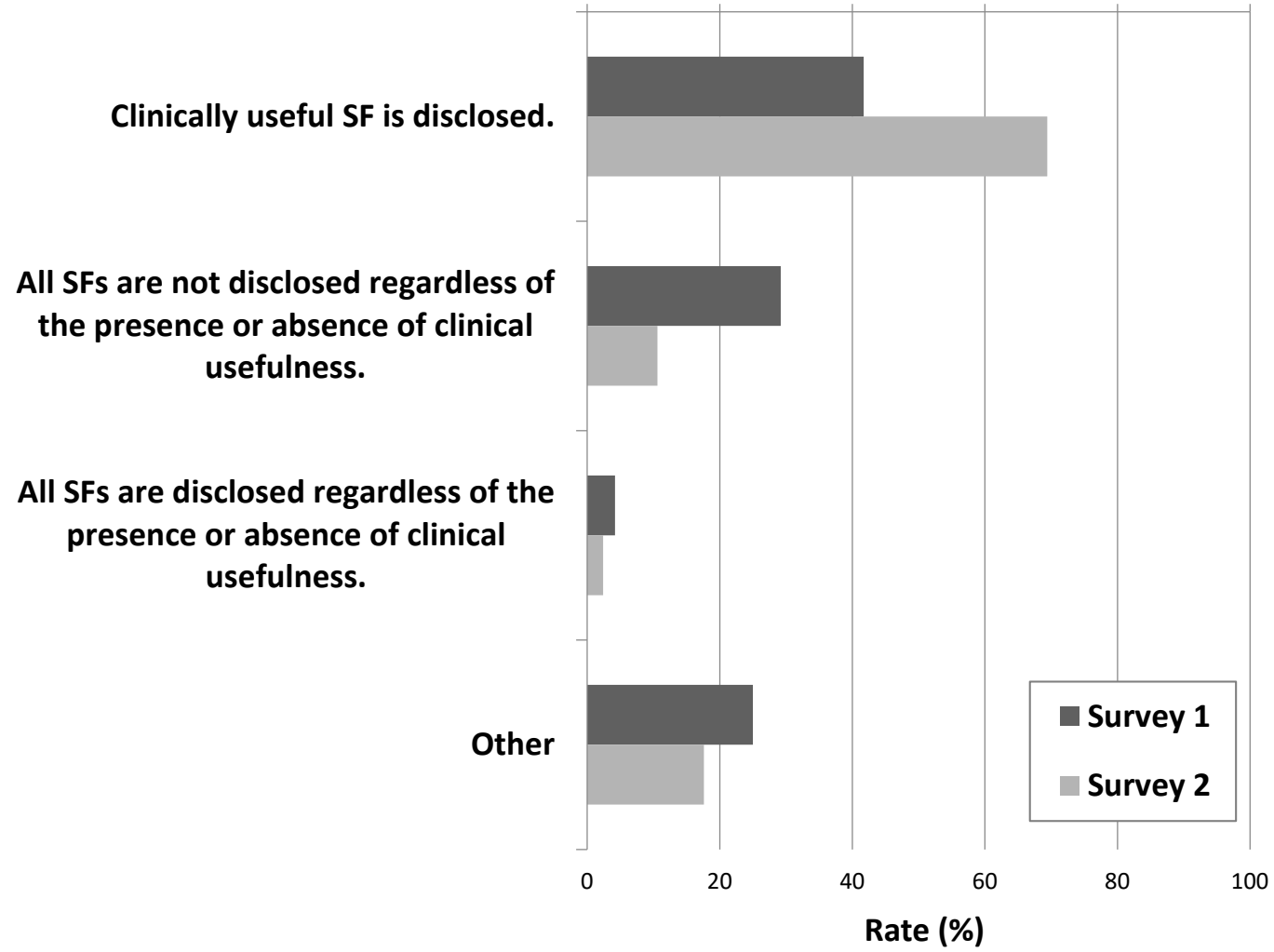


Figure 4

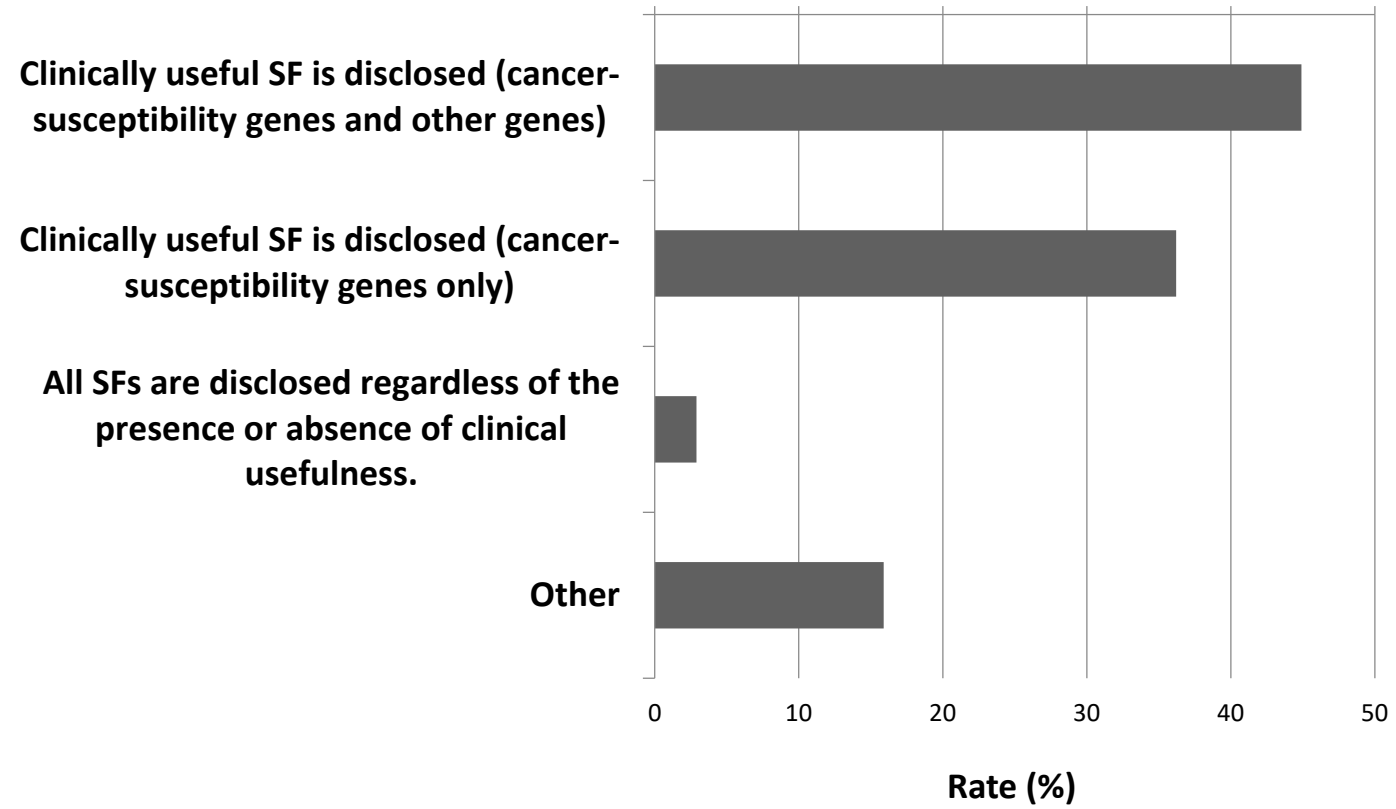


Table 1. Respondents' characteristics

Survey 1	N	Rate (%)
Affiliated department (N=207, multiple answers allowed)		
Department of Medical Genetics	75	36.2
Pediatrics	64	30.9
Gynecology	44	21.3
Neurology	8	3.9
Laboratory test	4	1.9
Others	54	26.1
Age (N=207)		
20s	7	3.4
30s	26	12.6
40s	59	28.5
50s	84	40.6
60s or older	31	15.0
Survey 2	N	Rate (%)
Affiliated department (N=245)		
Department of Medical Genetics	129	52.7
Pediatrics	31	12.7
Gynecology	26	10.6
Internal medicine	23	9.4
Surgery	2	0.8
Laboratory test	3	1.2
Others	31	12.7
Age (N=245)		
20s	20	8.2
30s	40	16.3
40s	45	18.4
50s	88	35.9
60s or older	52	21.2

Table 2. Policy on the clinical management of secondary findings

A. Comprehensive genetic analysis for the diagnosis and treatment of intractable diseases

	Survey 1 (N=59)		Survey 2 (N=129)	
	N	Rate (%)	N	Rate (%)
I do not know about the policy	7	11.9	9	7.0
There is no institutional policy, and no policy is set for each analysis	18	30.5	18	14.0
No policy is present now, but is planned for the future	9	15.3	17	13.2
There is no institutional policy, but a policy is set in each analysis	22	37.3	62	48.1
There is an institutional policy	3	5.1	23	17.8

B: Cancer genome profiling testing (N=94)

	N	Rate (%)
I do not know about the policy	0	0
There is no institutional policy, and no policy is set for each analysis	7	7.4
No policy is present now, but is planned for the future	15	16.0
There is no institutional policy, but a policy is set in each analysis	32	34.0
There is an institutional policy	40	42.6