

Challenges and prospects in creating telemedicine as a profession

August 22:
14:30-16:00 (JST)
13:30-15:00 (GMT+8)

The first half: The results of the survey in Japan

- (1) present the results of the survey in Japan
- (2) examine and discuss the results
- (3) Q&A

The Second half: Workshop by breakout room

- (4) identify issues and solutions for telemedicine as a profession in other countries
- (5) Concluding remark





K. Kudo et. al (2021)

“Barriers to International Telemedicine Conferencing: A Survey of the National University Hospital Council of Japan”

<https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/10.1089/tmj.2021.0046>

Introduction



- There are few studies on international telemedicine activities.
- It is not clear what issues are involved.
- Few studies have been conducted on Japan.
- Survey of National Association of University Hospital Directors and member hospitals
(43 member institutions of I-PT (Internationalization Project Team))



Methods.

Questionnaire survey of 167 staff (86 MI, 81 TT) at 43 university hospitals.

Results

- 93% response rate (40/43 universities responded).
- 88 responded (44 MI, 44 TT)

Activities.

- 75% (66/88) do not have any international activities in place or do not know of any past activities.

Technical Resources

- 93% of institutions have VC; 93% of TTs have some experience, but less than 30% have operational experience, including English communication.

Results

Barriers

- ❑ Lack of physicians or technicians (43%, 24/56)
- ❑ Not knowing how to get started (14%, 8/56)
- ❑ Technical challenges (9%, 5/56)
- ❑ Communication in English (9%, 5/56)
- ❑ MI feel challenges in how to get started (MI 6/29 TT 2/27) and technology (MI 4/29, TT 1/27).
- ❑ TT feels challenged in English (19% 5/27)

Discussion

- 2/3 of institutions Not active (68% 27/40) on international telemedicine conferences

Human resources

- Less than 20% of time is devoted to telemedicine operations.

How to start

- activity(-) group → can be solved by engaging
- Not in the medical school curriculum



Discussion

Technology

- Can be solved by technical assistance.
- Actually solved by the presence of technicians (Tomimatsu 2013).

Communication

- Technical communication is done in English.
- Working hours and holidays
- Technicians tend to work longer hours.



Discussion

Collaboration

- Collaboration between MI and TT is lacking.
- There are issues that can be solved through collaboration.
- Technical issues that MI is not good at can be improved by TT.
- English communication, a weak point of TT, can be improved by MI.



Discussion

Limitations of this study

- ❑ I-PT responsibilities vary from institution to institution
- ❑ Respondents spent less than 20% of their time engaged in telemedicine → Limited information.
- ❑ Possible personal bias if there is only one respondent from an institution.
- ❑ Needs more thorough qualitative and quantitative research.

Further Notes

Overall

- Differences between urban/rural areas and differences in experience and age of MI/TT respondents seem to be quite large.

Quantitative Research

- Institutional units: urban/rural, size, I-PT positioning (mixed)
- Individual units: impact of differences by individual attributes (TABLE 2), experience, etc. (years)

Further Notes

Qualitative Research.

- Collaboration (between MI and TT) could be interviewed to get specific context.
- Is the lack of collaboration plainly so, or is it UNIQUE in telemedicine? (Different countries position physicians differently = legal system issues!)
- It is possible to analyze the content analysis (I think so) to talk about the different ways of I-PT and its different positioning in the medical school curriculum.

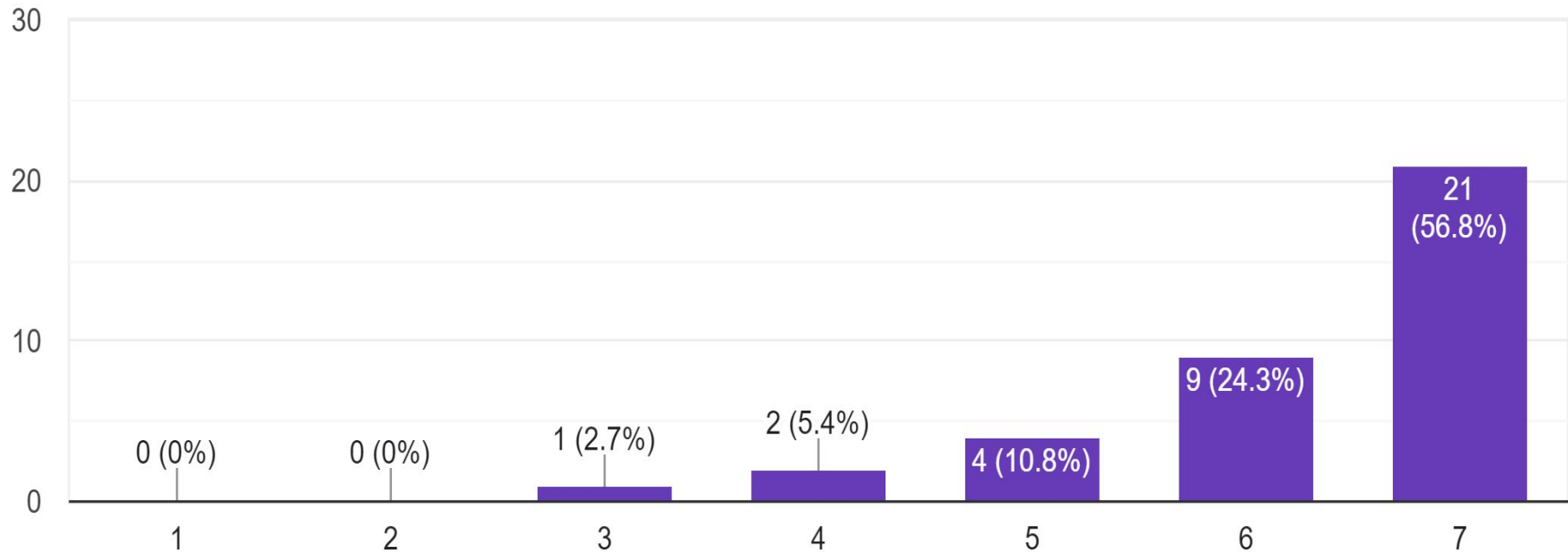
Surveys in the Philippines

- Policy Level
- Organizational Level
- Working Issues
- Team Work
- Team Work with other Organizations



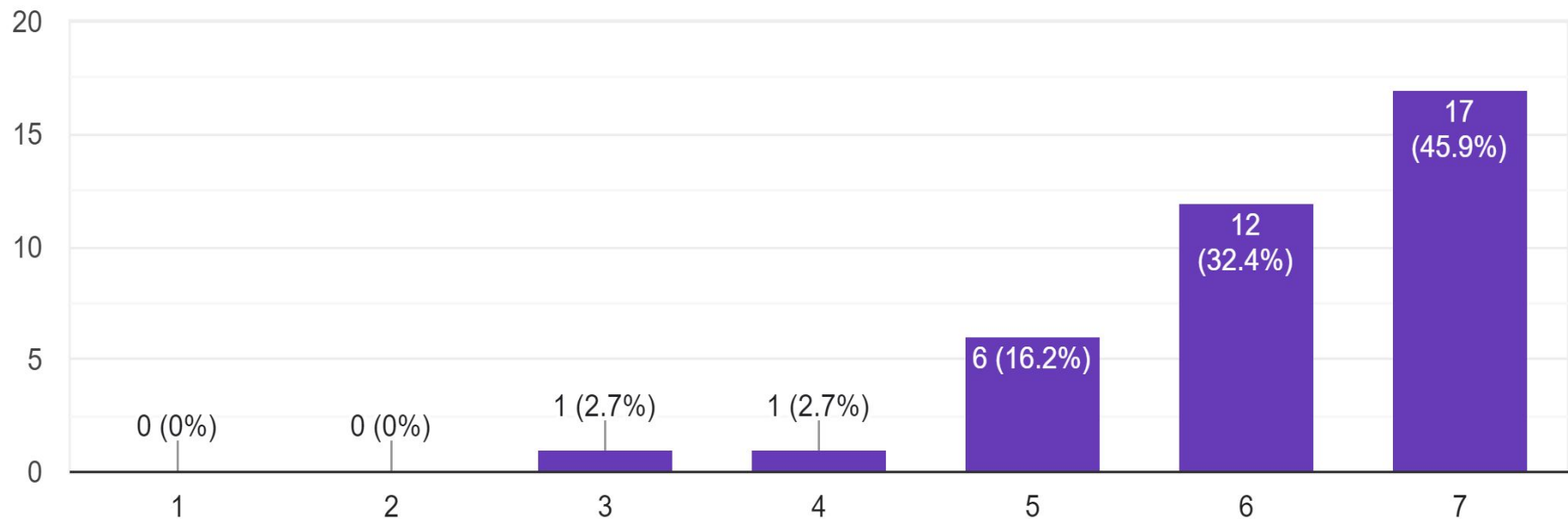
There are disparities in the level of medical care in different regions within your own country.

37 件の回答



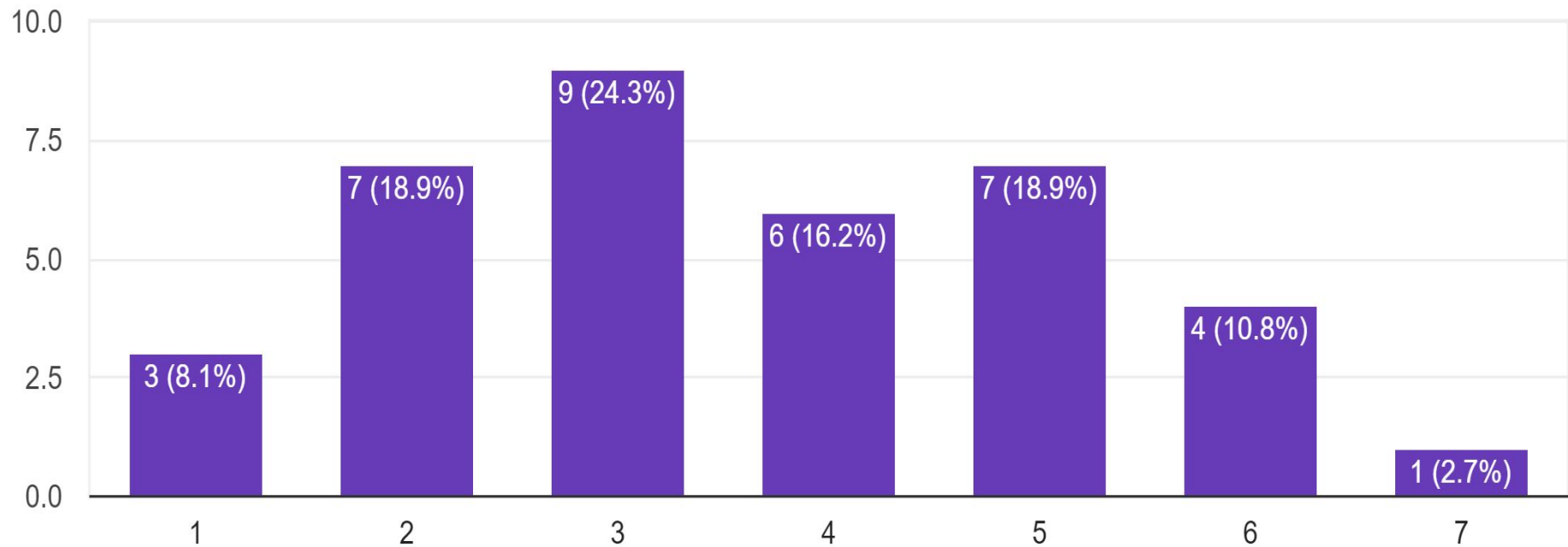
Telemedicine education (e.g., remote case conferences, live demonstrations) has the potential to reduce disparities in medical standards.

37 件の回答



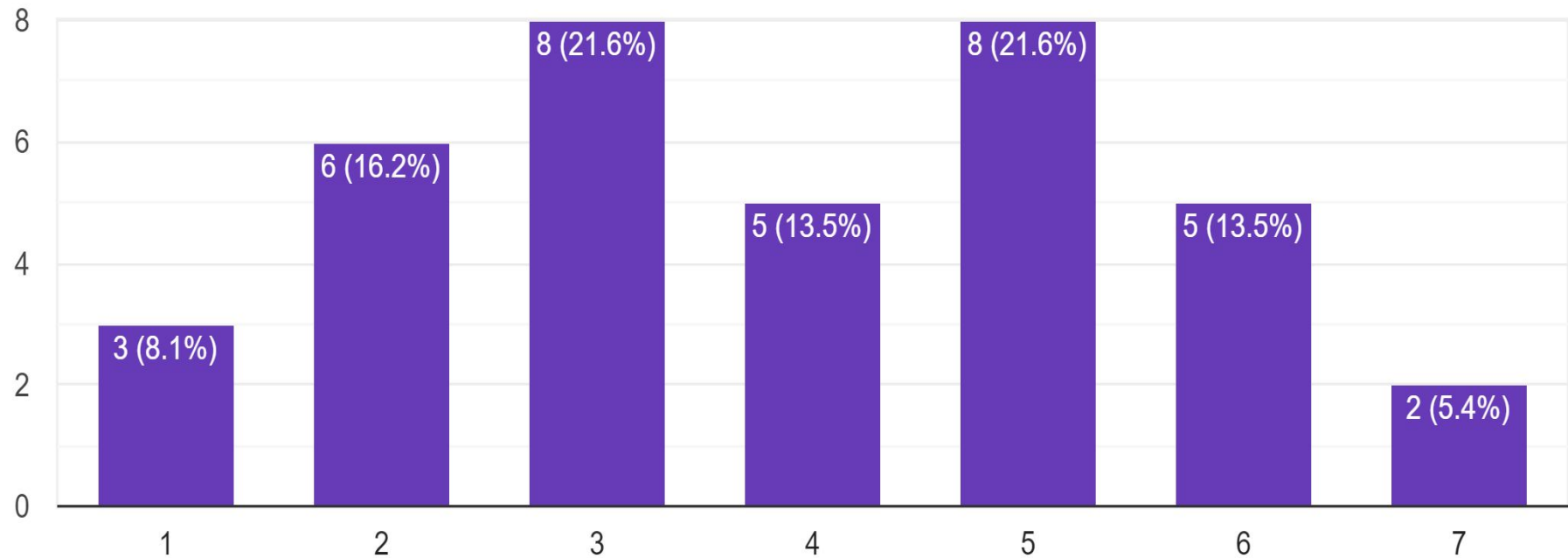
Public support for telemedicine education in the country is sufficient.

37 件の回答



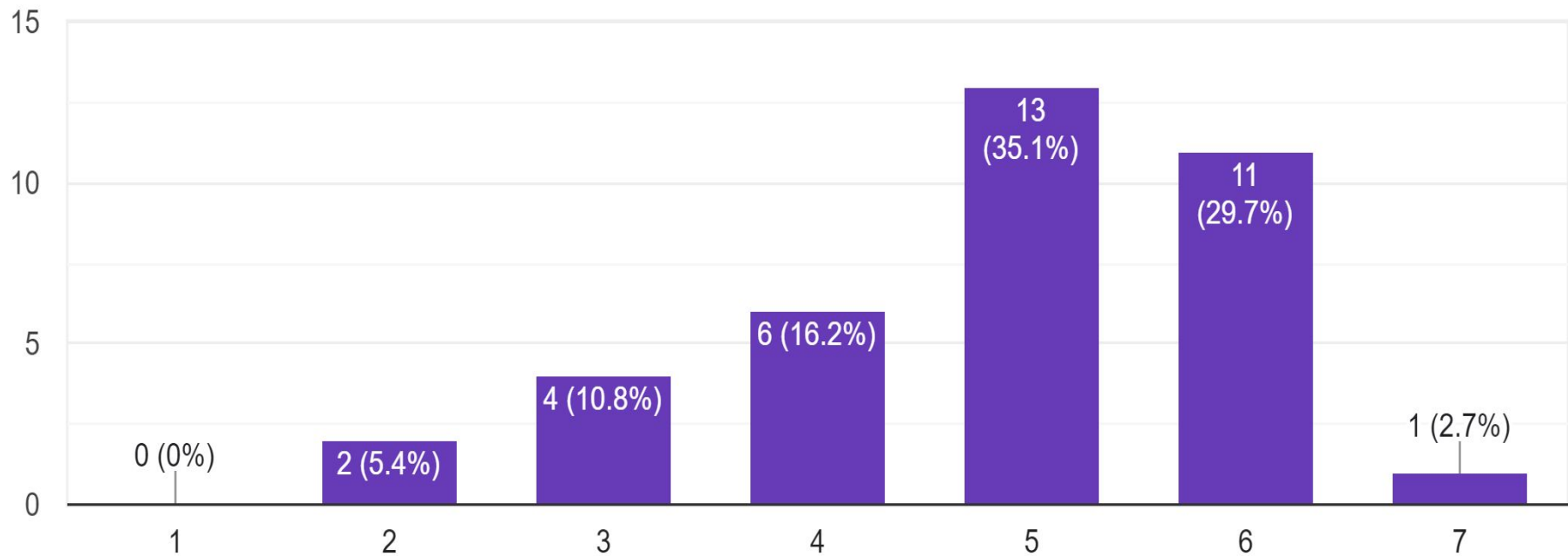
Organizational-level efforts (staffing, budget) for telemedicine education are sufficient.

37 件の回答



There are communication difficulties in hosting / organizing international telemedicine education.

37 件の回答



Main Questions in workshop

1. Do you think government support for telemedicine is sufficient?
2. Do you think the hospital you work for has a positive approach to telemedicine (e.g. education, training or resource allocation)?
3. At the level of your daily work, what do you see as the challenges in advancing telemedicine operations or its education?
4. Do you think there is sufficient collaboration with other departments or hospitals for telemedicine or its education?