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**P 042. A SURVEY ON THE CONDITION
OF PATIENTS WITH
LYMPHEDEMA IN JAPAN**

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Aim. Few studies have investigated the actual condition of patients with lymphedema in Japan. The objective was to elucidate the actual condition of patients with lymphedema by conducting a questionnaire survey on the effects of lymphedema on daily life, including the difficulties, psychological pain and other changes associated with the disease.

Methods. Subjects included a total of 3532 patients receiving outpatient treatment at one of 45 medical institutions providing lymphedema treatment, including members of the "support group for patients with lymphedema". The survey included questionnaire items on gender, age, cause, time of onset of edema and initiation of treatment, as well as difficulties in life.

Results. A total of 1202 valid responses (34.0%) were obtained. A total of 93.4% were women, and the majority (56.2%) were aged in their 50s or 60s. Edema occurred in the arms and legs in 28.0% and 72.9% of patients, respectively. The cause of edema was secondary (to cancer treatment) in 90.9% of patients. During lymphedema treatment, patients most commonly reported that symptoms were improved by "elastic bandage" (29.6%), followed by MLD (27%) and compression garment (24.5%). Although nearly half had been experiencing inflammation (cellulitis), the majority (57.3%) reported that inflammation either disappeared or occurred less frequently following treatment, indicating that treatment was effective.

Conclusion. The present findings indicate that early provision of information, early diagnosis, and early initiation of appropriate treatment were necessary for preventing increases in severity and reducing treatment costs among patients with lymphedema.