

Research on the attitude of Japanese doctors who are providing IVF treatment against third party reproduction and reproductive tourism

Background

- About 40 to 50 thousands of Japanese couples are estimated to seek infertile treatment.
- There is no legal regulation in regard to third party reproduction such as egg donation and surrogacy in Japan.
- In Japan, availability of third party reproduction for infertile patients is severely limited.
- Some of Japanese patients are going to abroad to seek such treatment.

Objectives

- To explore the attitude of Japanese doctors who are providing IVF treatment.

[Major concerns]

- 1) Their attitudes toward overseas egg donation.
- 2) Their attitudes toward legal system in Japan.
- 3) Their attitudes toward reproductive tourism.

Methods

Survey Method

Mail Survey using anonymous self-administered questionnaire

Respondents

Chief doctors who are in charge of fertility treatment at designated medical institutions of Subsidies to specific infertility treatment cost

Survey Period

July 2011

Mailed questionnaire

580 doctors (include undeliverable 3 by relocation or closing of clinics)

Number of valid responses

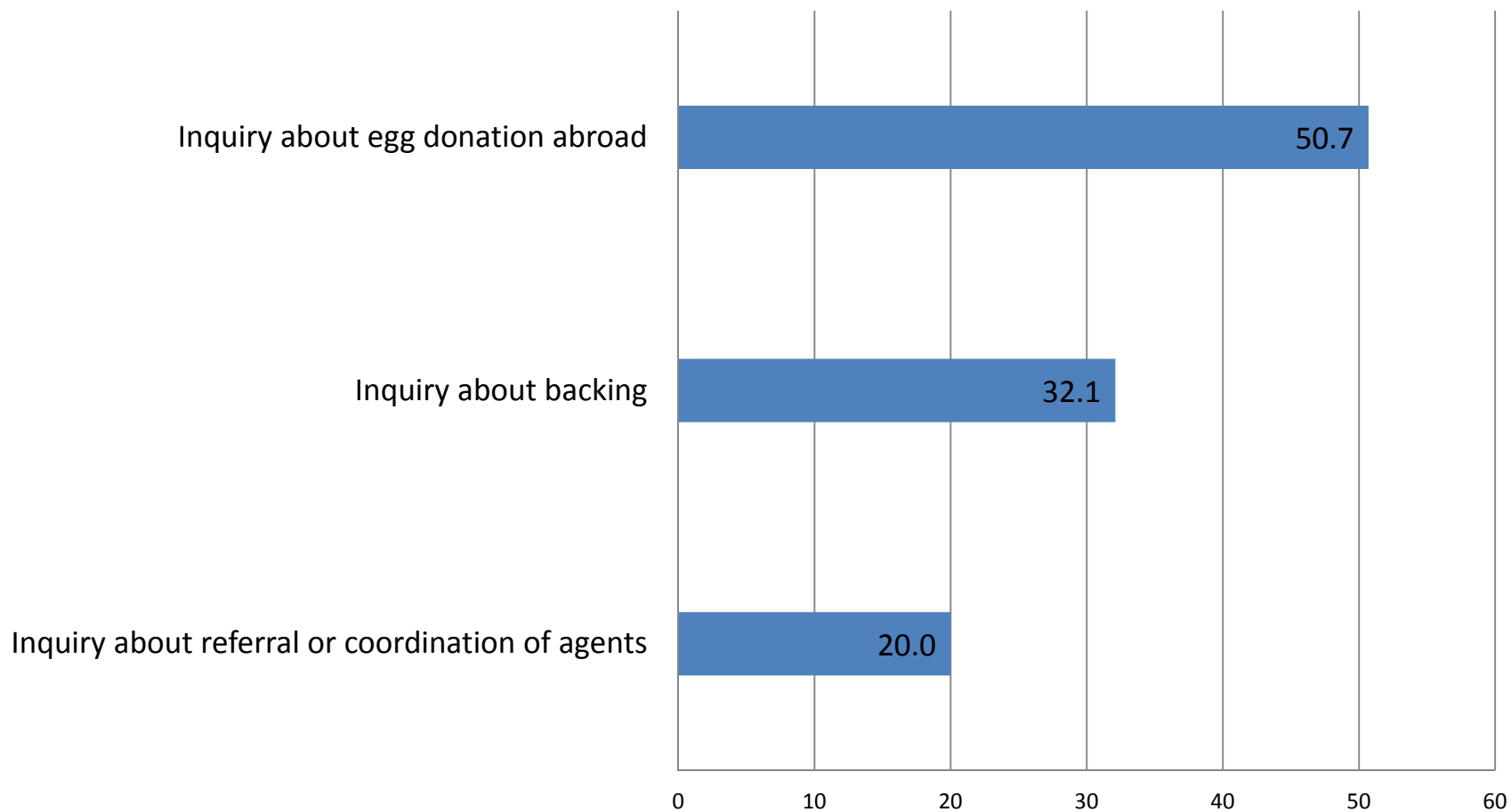
141 doctors (Response Rate 24.4%)

Doctors included

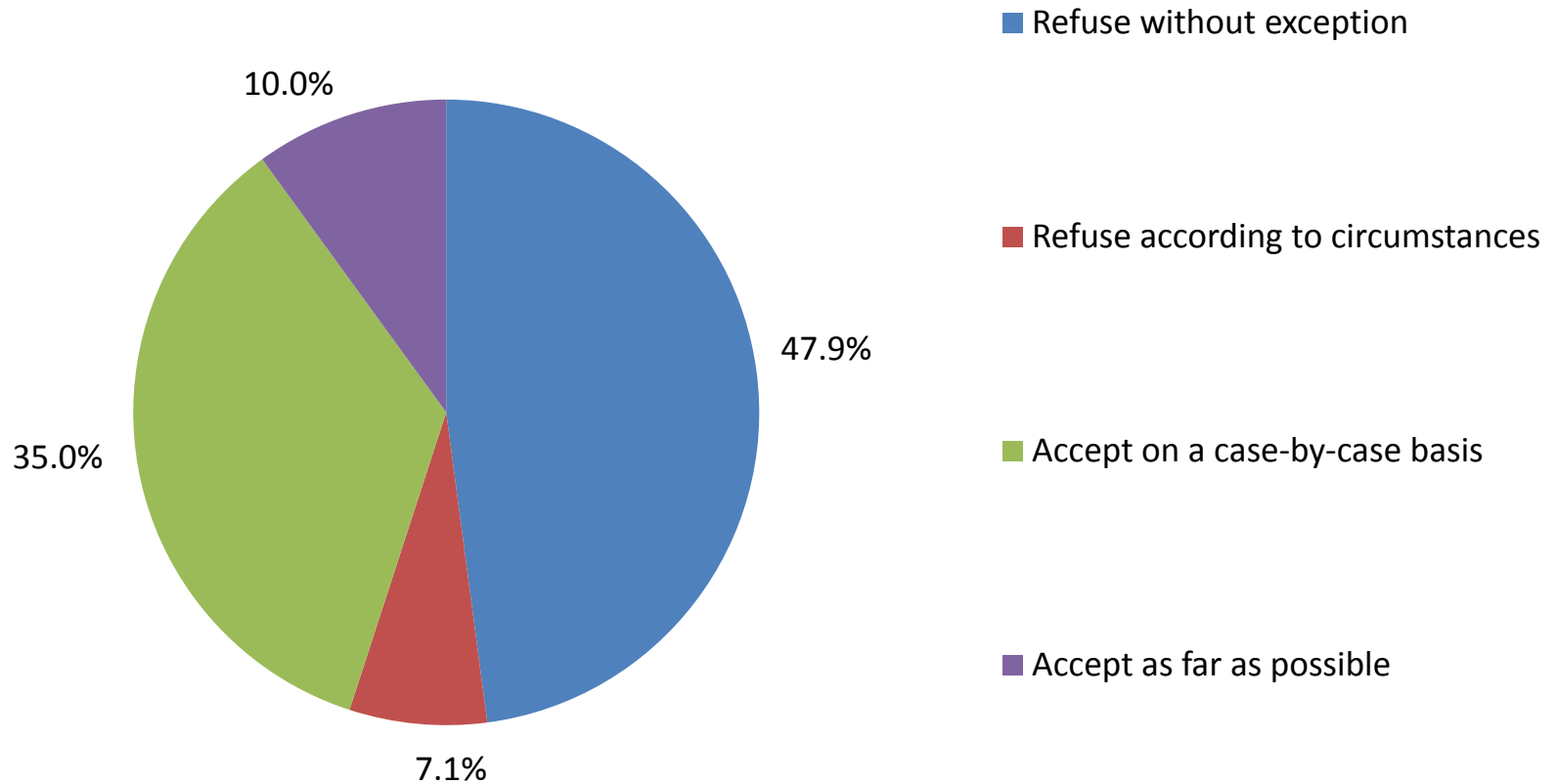
- Male 87.0% Female 13.0% 30's—70's (30's 3.6%, 40's 41.3%, 50's 42.8%, 60's 11.6%, 70's 0.7%)
- Kanto district 30.5%, Chubu district 22.0%, Kinki district 12.1%, Hokkaido and Tohoku district 9.9%, Chugoku district 5.7%, Kyushu and Okinawa district 11.3%
- Average number of IVF per year 268 cycles (0-6000cycles, mode value 100, median value 150). 0-100 cycles 47.1%, 101-200 cycles 21.3%, 201-300 cycles 9.6%, 301 cycles or more 22.1%

The research was conducted by Yuri Hibino, Yousuke Shimazono, Tatsuya Imai, Yuka Maki, and Chiaki Shirai.

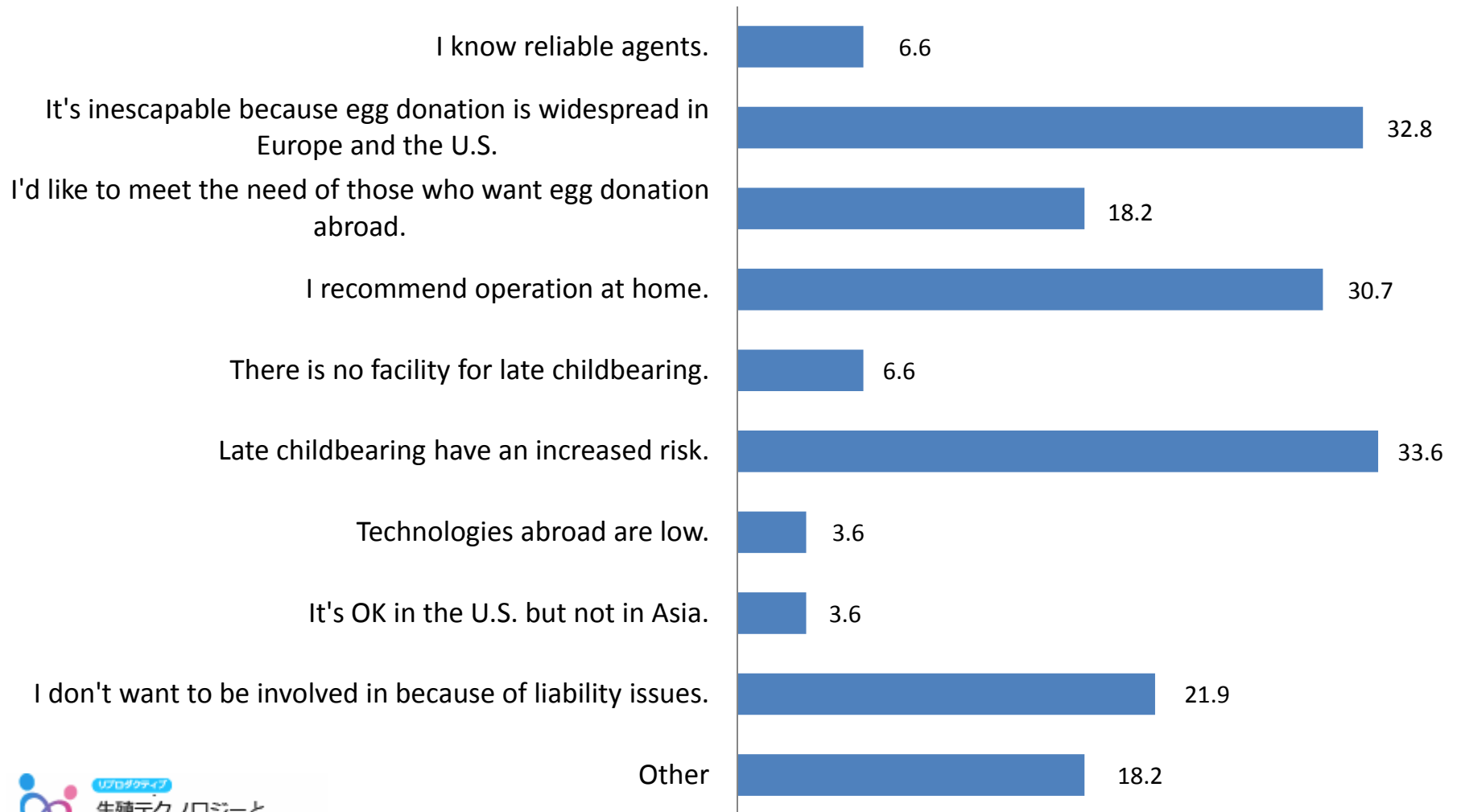
Q1 The experience of having had inquiry about treatment abroad, egg donation from patients (single answer; %)



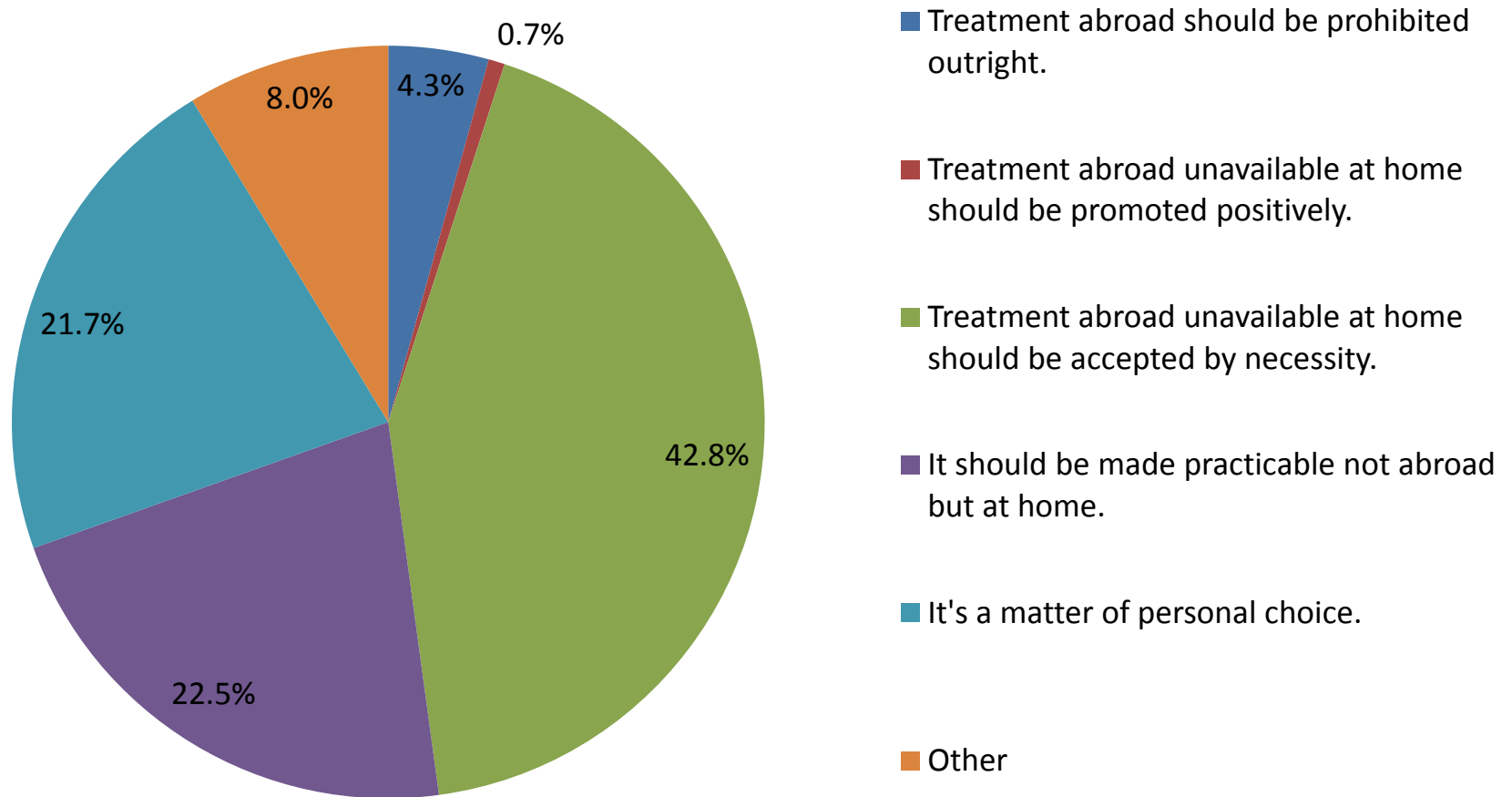
Q 2 Response to their patients' requests regarding backing for overseas egg donation (single answer; %)



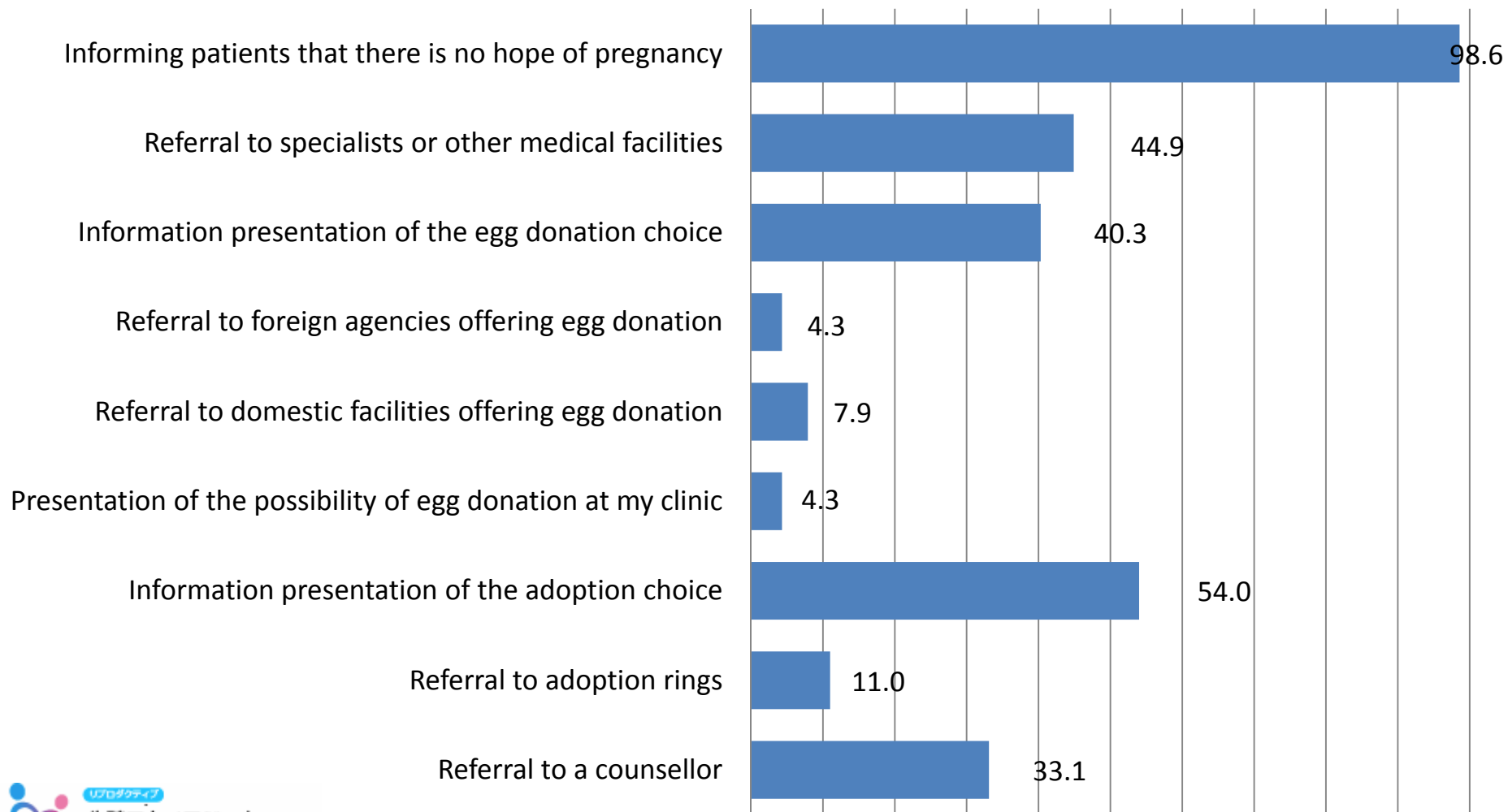
Q3 Opinion on egg donation abroad (multiple answers allowed; %)



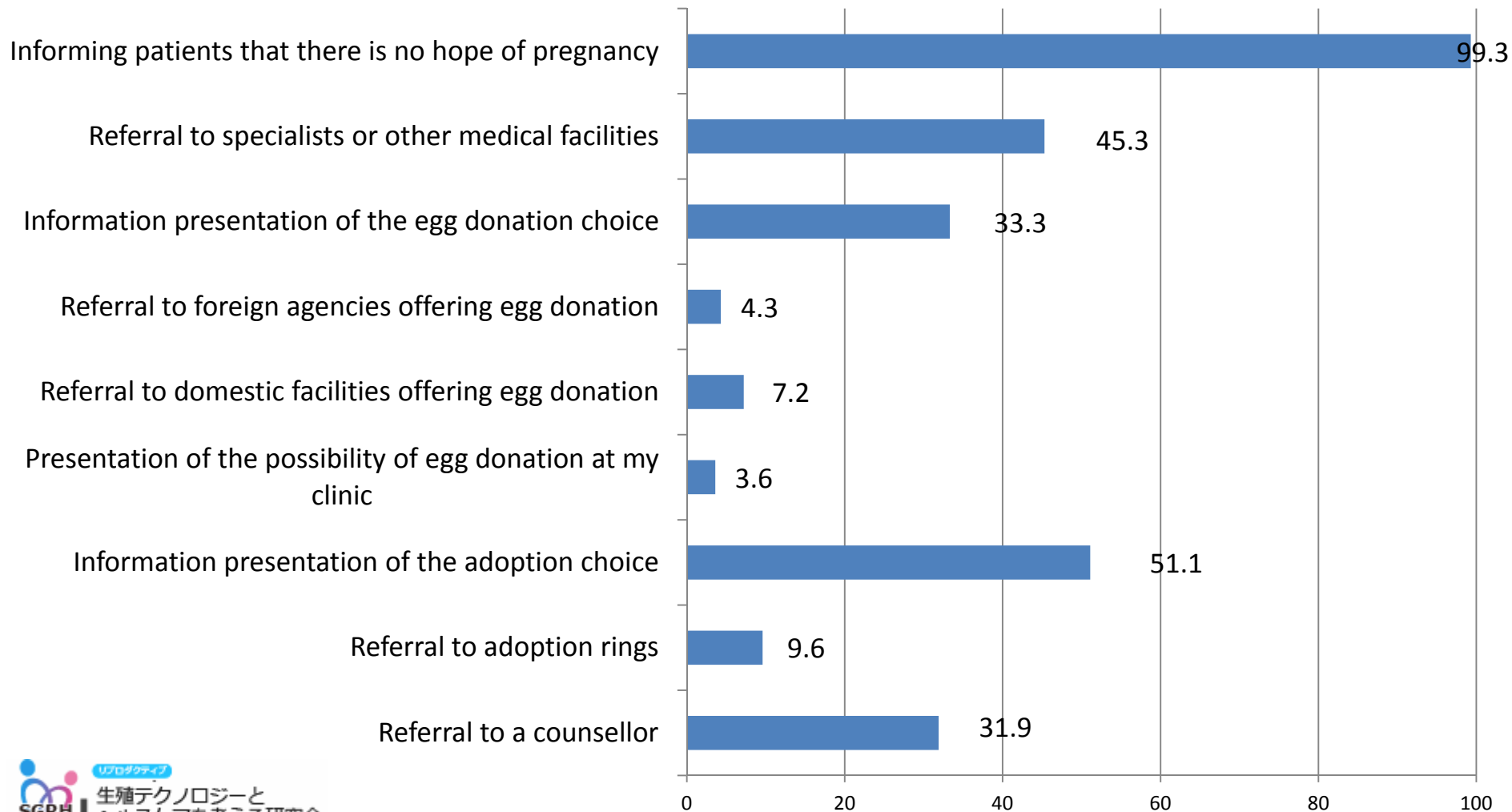
Q4 Opinion on treatment abroad (single answer; %)



Q5 How to deal with the patients with evidence of premature menopause(multiple answers allowed; %)

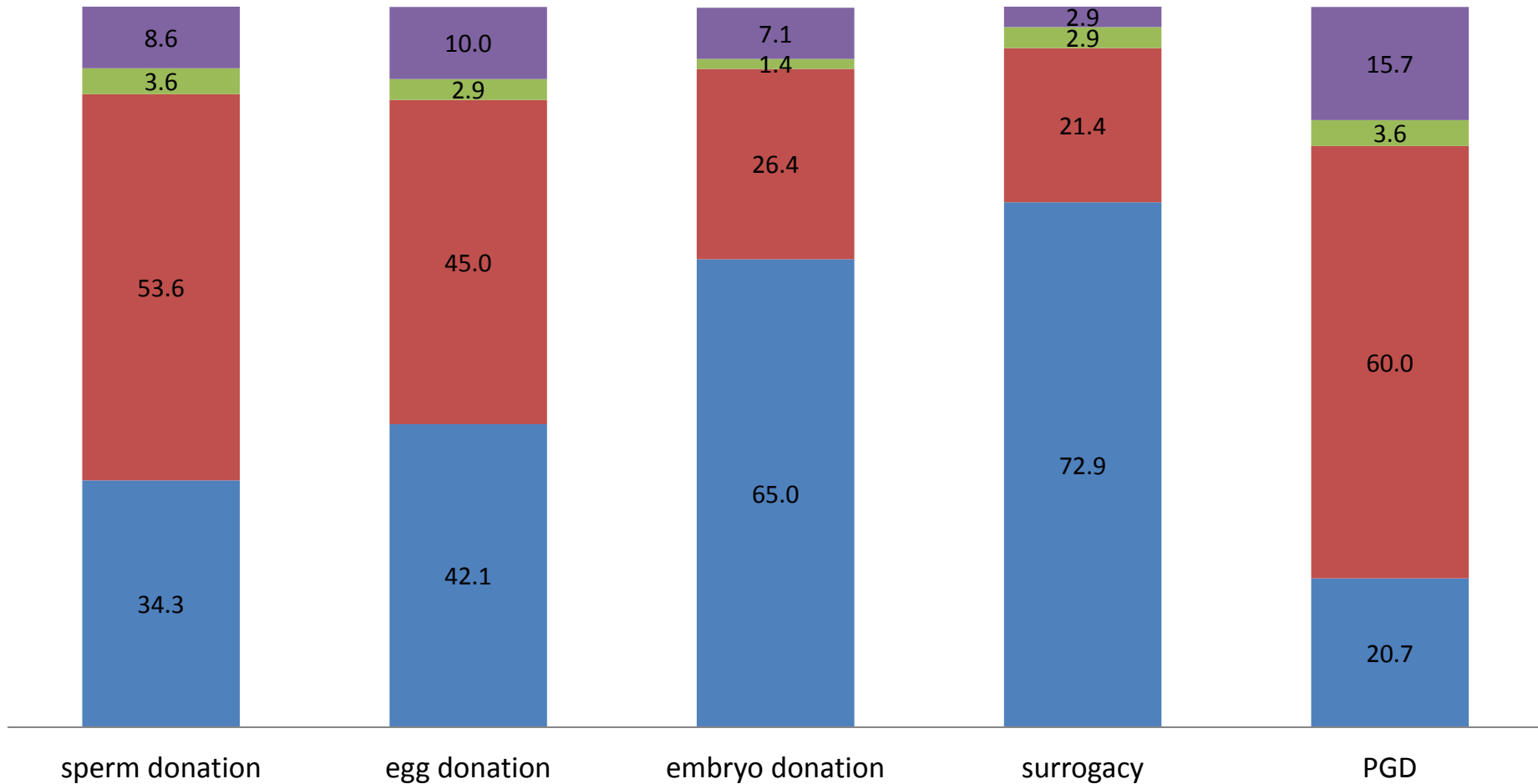


Q6 How to deal with the patients with evidence of age-related infertility(multiple answers allowed; %)

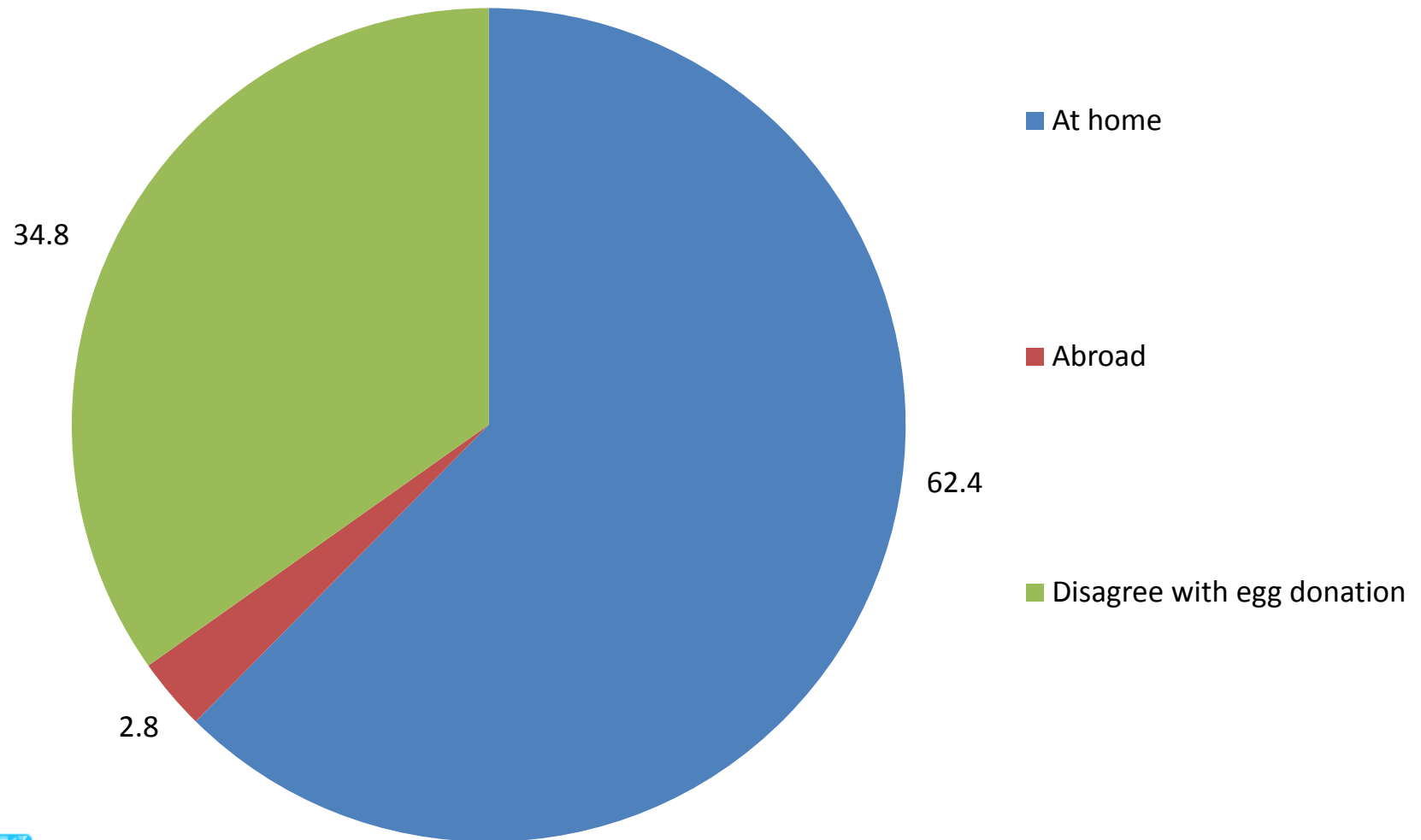


Q7 Opinion on assisted reproductive technologies(single answer; %)

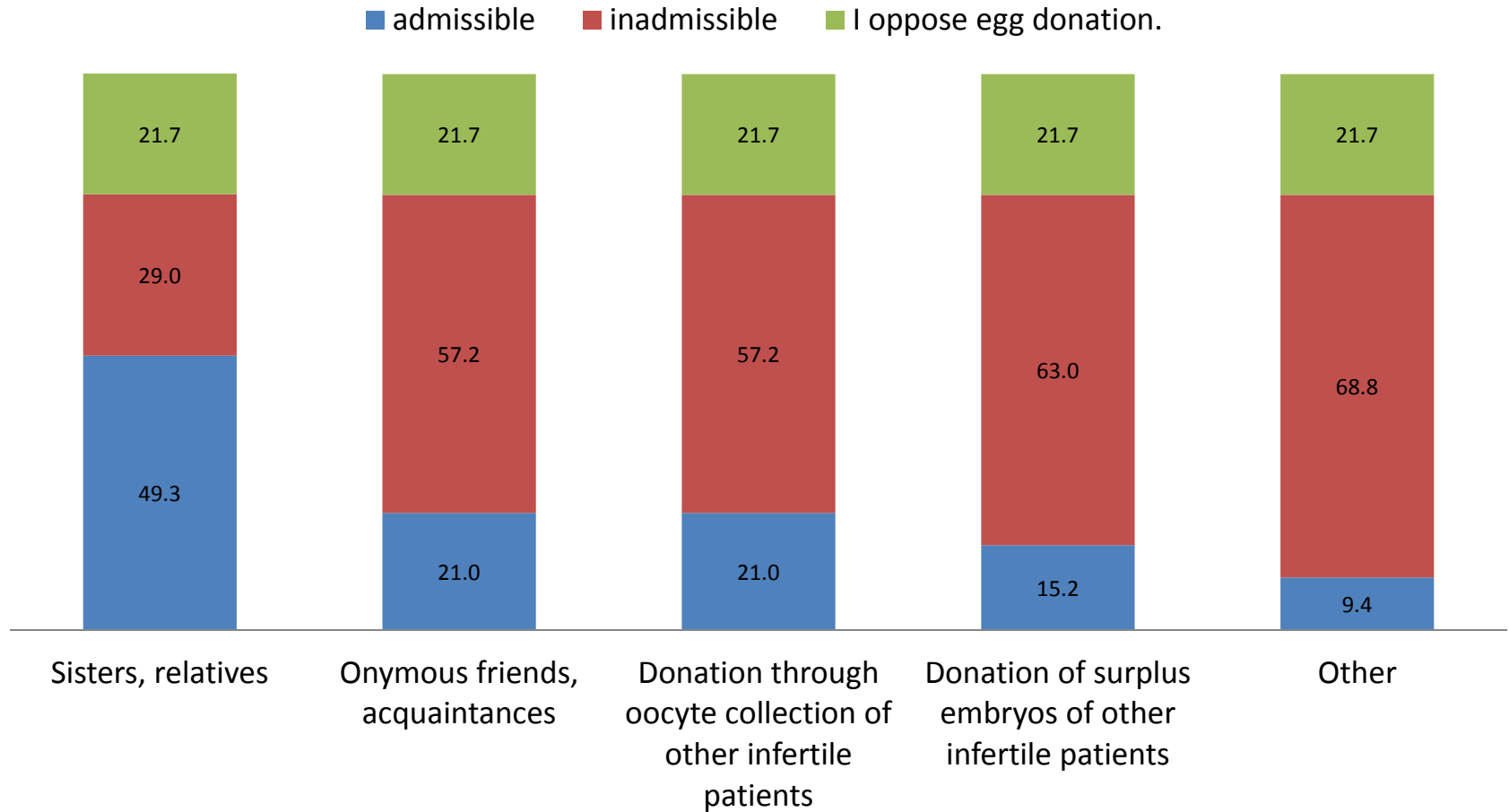
■ Disagree in general terms and I myself don't offer ■ Agree in general terms but I myself don't offer
■ Disagree in general terms but I myself offer ■ Agree in general terms and I myself offer



Q8 Desirable place regarding egg donation (single answer; %)

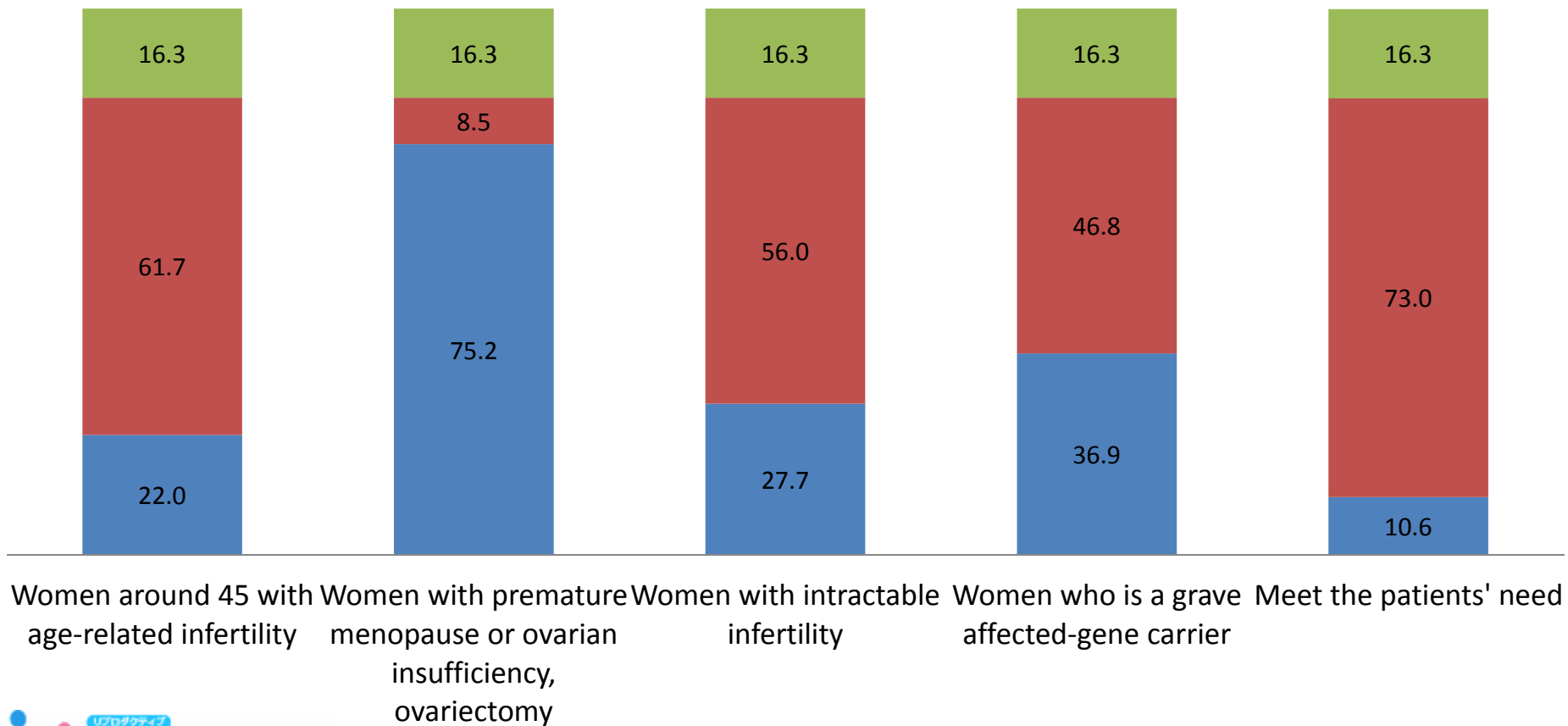


Q9 Admissible egg donor (multiple answers allowed; %)

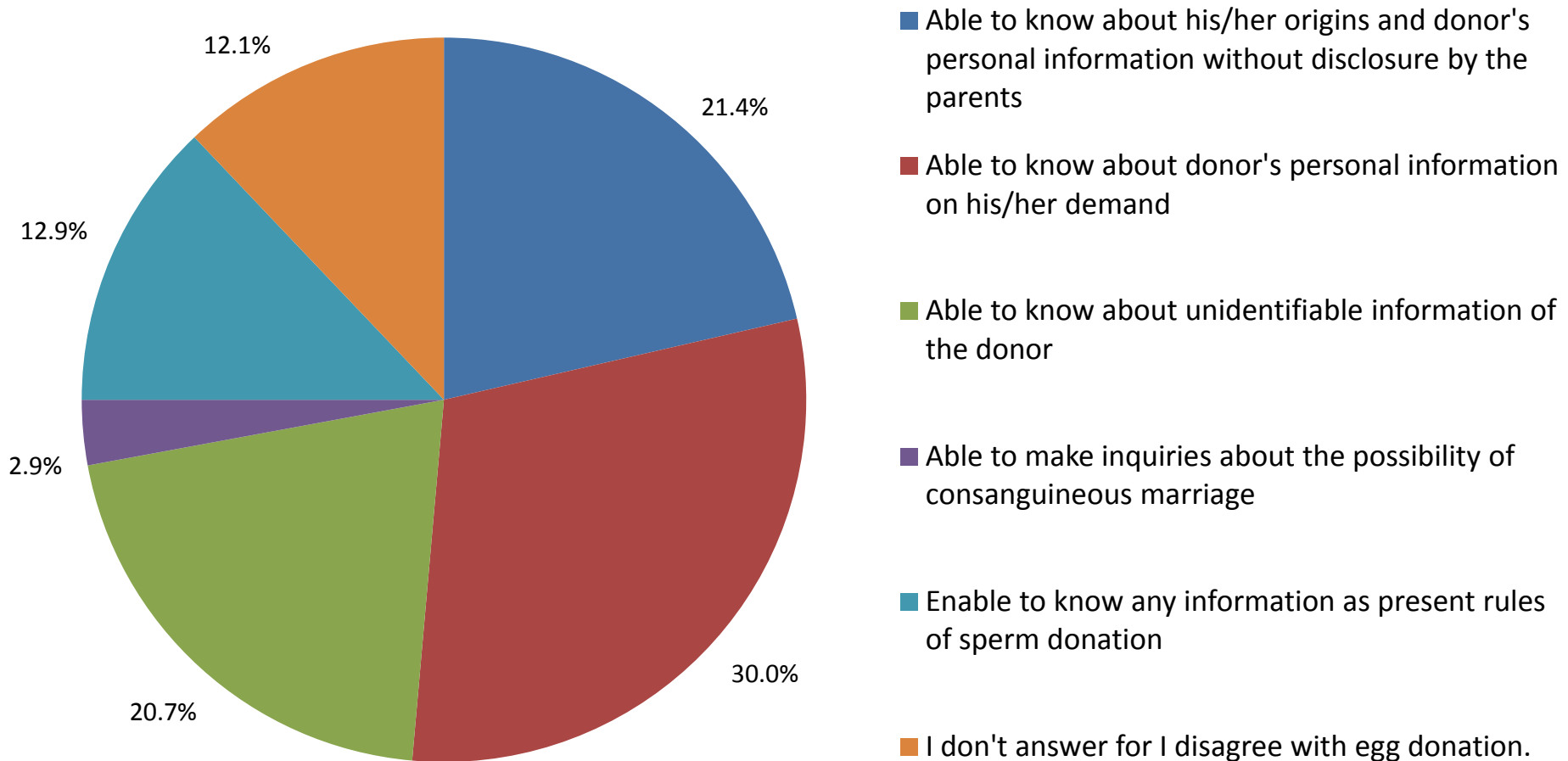


Q 10 Admissible egg recipient (multiple answers allowed; %)

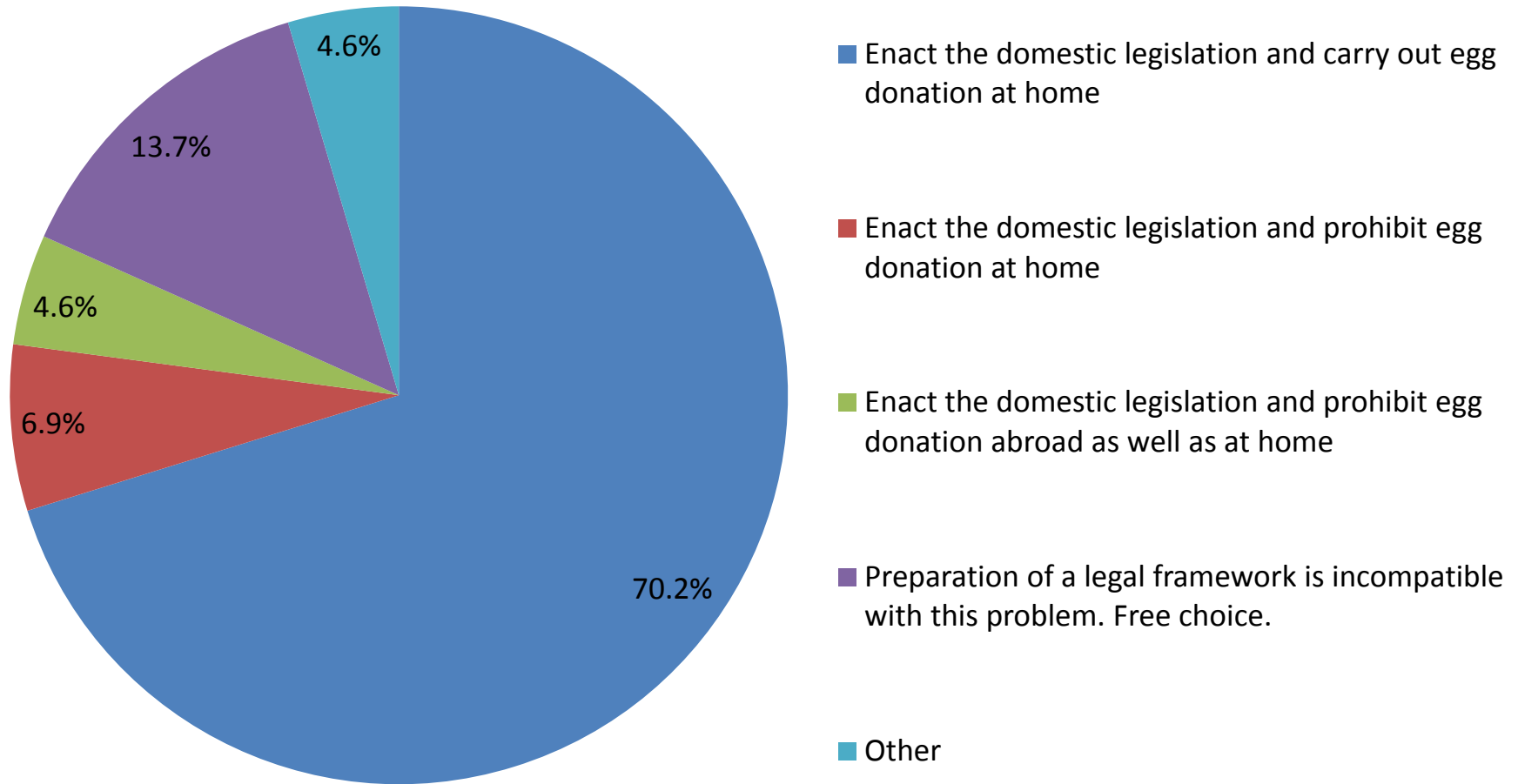
■ admissible ■ inadmissible ■ I oppose egg donation



Q11 Children's right to know about their origins (single answer; %)



Q12 Desirable legal system (single answer; %)



Doctor's free statements

Male, 60's (100 cycles per year)

“The need for egg donation is pressing, for these days the number of patients with low AMH is increasing. In foreign countries, however, only a few people can access the treatment because of expensive brokered rate. It's necessary to create the system that enables those who want children to access the treatment equally. We don't have enough time in this society with fewer children.”

continued

Female, 40's (60 cycles per year)

“The problem is that no one has an accurate grasp of the situation regarding treatment abroad. All data should be collected and opened as domestic data. In the existing circumstances, patients couldn't pursue a remedy even if some troubles happened.”

Male, 60's (60 cycles per year)

“Egg donation should be banned in principle (especially pertaining to commercial one).”

Female, 50's (150 cycles per year)

“The need is increasing. I guess many patients abandon the choice for lack of funds.”