

**To participants in the research**

**Explanation about the  
“Difficulties in accessing to medical care and health disparities  
due to language barriers among migrants in Japan:  
A cross-sectional survey”**

Version 2

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Department of Global Health Research,  
Graduate School of Medicine, Juntendo University

Principal Investigator [Motoyuki Yuasa](#)

## **1. Introduction**

This research has been approved by the head of the research institution, based on deliberation by the Medical Research Ethics Committee of the Juntendo University School of Medicine. Please decide of your own free will whether or not you wish to participate in the research. There will be no disadvantage to you if you do not participate.

Some of the explanations may be a little difficult to understand. If you have any questions or concerns, please ask the researcher.

## **2. Purpose of this research**

In this research, we will ask non-native Japanese speakers living in Japan about access to medical care in Japan, health awareness, life in Japan, etc.

The research aims to show how difficult it is for people like this to go to a hospital, whether there are disparities in health, and how we can make it easier for people to visit a hospital. Through this research, we aim to contribute to the creation of a society where everyone can go to the hospital with peace of mind.

## **3. Methodology of this research**

We will conduct questionnaire surveys and interview surveys. In the interview survey, participants will be asked in groups of six or seven to talk in more detail about their experiences and thoughts regarding the answers they provided in the questionnaire survey.

## **4. About the subjects of this research**

Those to whom (1) through (3) all apply are eligible to participate in the research.

- (1) Those who are 18 years old or older
- (2) Those whose native language is not Japanese
- (3) Those who live in Japan

## **5. Number of participants expected to participate in this research**

This research will be conducted from the date of permission for implementation to March 31, 2027.

We plan to ask 500 people to participate in the questionnaire survey and 30 to 42 people to participate in the interview survey.

## **6. Anticipated advantages and potential disadvantages of participating in this research**

**<Expected advantages>**

There is no direct advantage to participants, but the results of this research may contribute in the future to making it easier for people living in Japan whose first language is not Japanese to access hospitals.

**<Possible disadvantages>**

There will be no disadvantages to those who participate in this research.

**7. Regarding any harm to your health that may occur during this research**

This research will not pose any risk to the health of participants.

**8. Voluntary participation in the research**

Please decide of your own free will whether or not you wish to participate in the research. You will not suffer any disadvantages if you do not agree to participate in this research, or if you decide to stop participating during the course of the research.

(1) Those who will participate in the questionnaire survey

If you no longer wish to complete the survey during the course of the survey, it is okay to stop responding.

(2) Those who will participate in the interview survey

In an interview survey, after you have agreed to participate, you will be able to withdraw your consent (stop participating) at any time up until the interview begins. Also, if you do not wish to answer any questions during the interview, you do not have to answer them.

To keep a record of the research, the interview will be audio-recorded, filmed, and photographed. You may refuse them at any time. You will not suffer any disadvantages if you refuse to be audio-recorded, filmed, or photographed.

However, we may not be able to delete the data we have collected from you in the following cases:

(1) If personal information is not collected

(2) If the data has been published as a research paper at the time of withdrawal of consent

(3) If the individual cannot be identified due to complete anonymization

**9. Provision of information regarding this research**

After you have decided to take part in the interview survey, you will be notified promptly of any new information that may affect your decision to participate.

## **10. Handling of personal information**

When handling the collected information (data and materials), we will manage it using a survey ID that is unrelated to the personal information of those who participated in the survey, and we will take great care to protect the confidentiality of those who participated.

### **(1) About the questionnaire survey**

Paper survey responses will be securely stored in a locked locker in a research lab at Faculty of International Liberal Arts at Juntendo University. Online survey responses and data from paper surveys will be securely stored in the university's password-controlled cloud storage.

In the survey, we ask for contact information of those who can participate in an interview survey. This contact information will be used only to contact you about the interview survey. In addition, the questionnaire survey response data will be managed using IDs with the contact information erased so that it is not possible to know who responded.

We will create a list with the survey numbers and contact information only for those who are able to participate in the interview survey. This list will be stored securely in the university's password-controlled cloud storage, separate from the questionnaire survey answers. Also, this list is used only for interview survey.

### **(2) About the interview survey**

The text data from the interviews will be anonymized to prevent participants from identifying themselves, in accordance with standards set out in the Personal Information Protection Act.

The image and audio data, as well as the text data of the interview contents, will be strictly managed in the university's password-controlled cloud storage.

In addition, in order to receive the reduced fee (reward) described in “12. About your cost burden”, we will need your personal information, such as your name and contact details. This personal information will be collected separately from the survey content and will only be used for payment of rewards.

After the study is completed, the data and documents collected through the surveys and interviews will be kept for 10 years and then destroyed, with great care taken to ensure that individuals are not identified.

The results of this research may be published in medical journals and other publications, but your name and other personal information will not be identified.

## **11. Points to note when participating in this research**

Please answer all the questions in the questionnaire survey to the best of your ability.

## **12. About your cost burden**

There is no cost to you for participating in the research.

We anticipate that the questionnaire surveys and survey interviews will require a significant time commitment from the participants. Therefore, we will provide a reward to those who wish to receive the reward in the questionnaire survey and to all participants in the interview survey.

## **13. Conflict of interest**

This research was supported by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENAH) and Research Encouragement Grant (Project Number: 24KJ1981). No other funding (receiving research money) has been provided by companies.

In other words, the researchers plan and conduct the research independently of the companies, and the companies do not have any influence on the research results or analysis. The principal investigator and researchers of this research have applied for the necessary items to the Juntendo University School of Medicine Medical and Health Research Conflict of Interest Management Committee and have undergone its review, in accordance with the "Juntendo University Medical and Health Research Conflict of Interest Management Regulations" and the "Standard Operating Procedures for Conflicts of Interest in Medical and Health Research Involving Human Subjects." In addition, if the results of this research result in intellectual property such as patent rights, they will belong to the university and researchers, and not to the participants in the research.

## **14. Secondary use of data**

The data collected for this research may be used for other research. If we use the data in the future beyond the scope of the purpose and items explained to you when you participated in this research, we will announce it on our university's website after reviewing and obtaining approval from the Medical Research Ethics Committee.

In addition, all personal information will be deleted from data that is used for secondary purposes, and the data will be completely anonymous. Therefore, your data cannot be identified or deleted in the secondary use.

## **15. Please contact our consultation desk at any time.**

If you have any questions or concerns about this research, please contact us at any time.

[Consultation desk]

Department of Global Health Research, Graduate School of Medicine, Juntendo University 2-1-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-8421 Tel: 03-3813-3111

Principal Investigator: [Motoyuki Yuasa](#)