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Investigation of Admission Systems in Medical Departments of Universities in Japan

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Purpose

We surveyed professors from medical departments at universities throughout Japan to investigate the following:

- 1) What abilities patients favor in medical doctors
- 2) What medical schools in Japan are innovative
- 3) What selection criteria candidates must meet and what subjects and courses they study



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Japanese System for Entering Medical Department of University

HS: enter medical department or medical university after finishing high-school (6-year program) via Entrance Examinations.

TF: enter medical department after graduating from 4-year courses in disciplines other than medicine. Applicants who pass examinations join the 2nd or 3rd year of the course as transfer students.

MS: In Japan, we do not currently have medical schools for university graduates [like the North American system].

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Survey Methods

- ◆ Subjects: Medical department faculty members at national, public, and private universities
- ◆ Date of survey: March to June, 2004
- ◆ Questionnaires sent to 12,000 faculty members
- ◆ Received 3,993 responses
 - ◆ Relatively high response rate: 33%

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Questionnaire Consists of 5 Parts:

- ◆ **Part A:** Abilities required for medical doctors to be favored by patients
 - ◆ 47 items (4-point scale) + 1 item (free answer)
- ◆ **Part B [HS]:** Application to medical department (MD) after finishing high school
 - ◆ 1 item
- ◆ **Part C [TF]:** Application to MD after finishing 4-year courses other than medicine
 - ◆ 6 items (multiple choice) + 4 items (free answer)
- ◆ **Part D [MS]:** Application to Medical School (MS) if this system is established in Japan
 - ◆ 4 items (multiple choice) + 4 items (free answer)
- ◆ **Part Z:** face sheet (respondent's attributes)
 - ◆ 5 items

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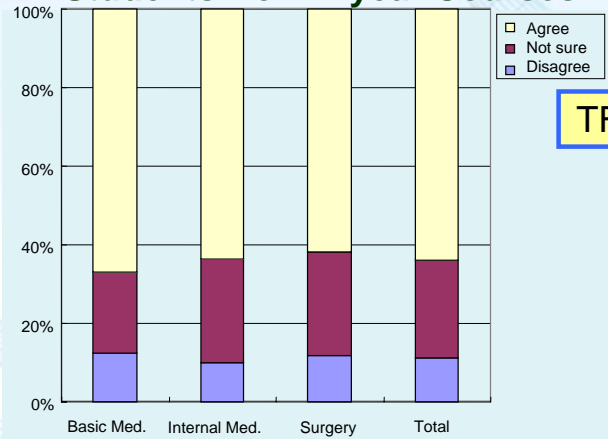
Reclassification of Specialties of Medical Fields

- ◆ **From 2 classifications:**
 - ◆ Basic fields: basic medicine, social medicine
 - ◆ Clinical fields: clinical medicine (internal medicine) and clinical medicine (surgery)
- ◆ **To 3 classifications:**
 - ◆ Basic fields: basic medicine, social medicine: 28.8%
 - ◆ Clinical medicine (internal medicine): 33.1%
 - ◆ Clinical medicine (surgery): 33.9%
- ◆ **3 classifications work better than 2**

Survey Goals

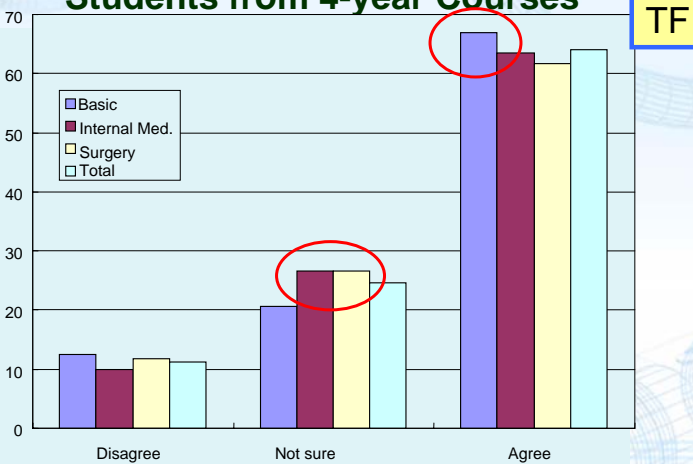
- ◆ What faculty members think of TF
- ◆ What faculty members think of MS
- ◆ What subjects are necessary for entrance examinations into TF and MS
- ◆ What abilities are required for medical doctors to be favored by patients

Views on Accepting Graduate Students from 4-year Courses



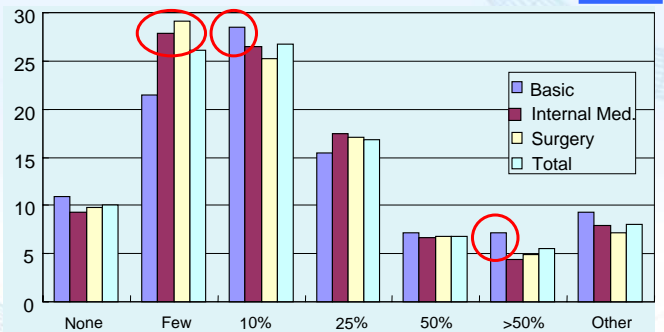
TF

Views on Accepting Graduate Students from 4-year Courses



TF

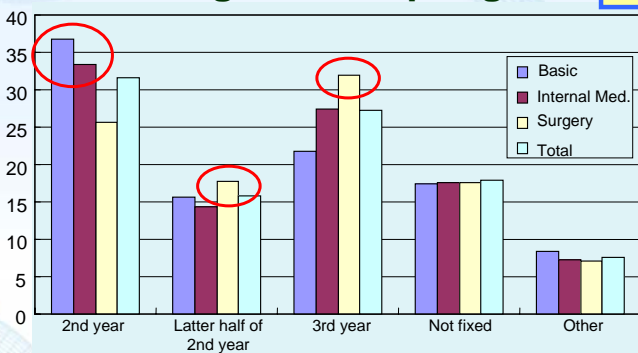
Capacity for TF



TF

Basic Medicine is eager to have TF.

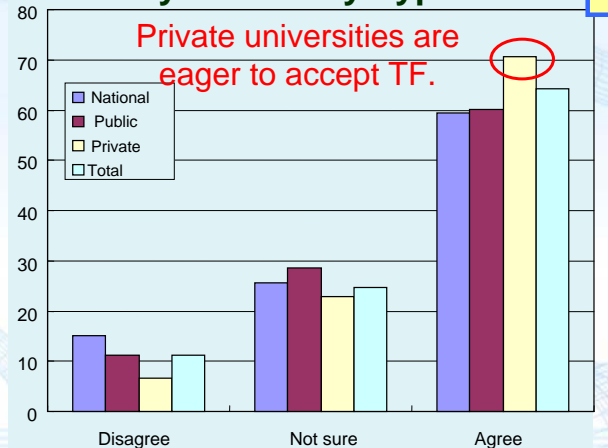
Timing for Accepting TF



TF

Surgery prefers late acceptance (transferring into higher year of course).

Views on Accepting TF by University Type

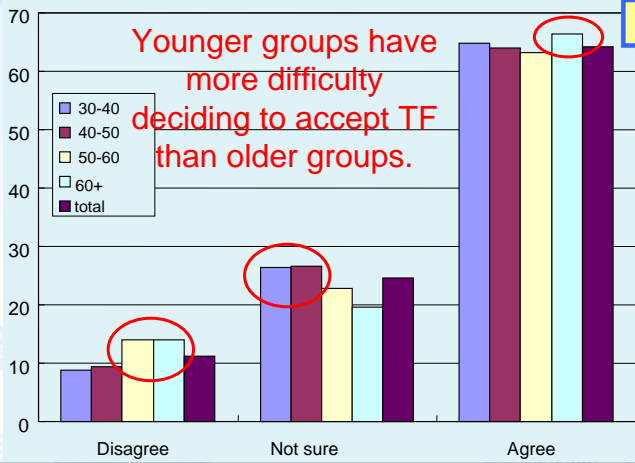


TF

Private universities are eager to accept TF.

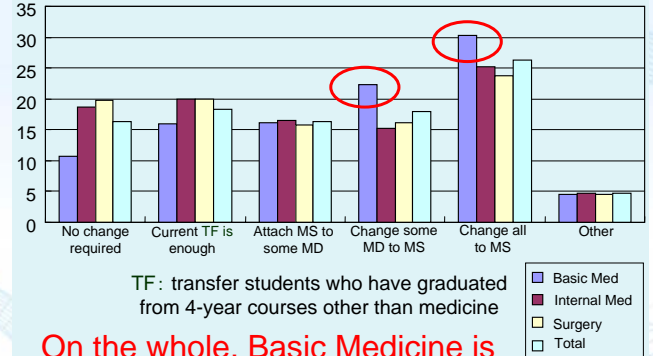
Views on Accepting TF by Age Group

TF



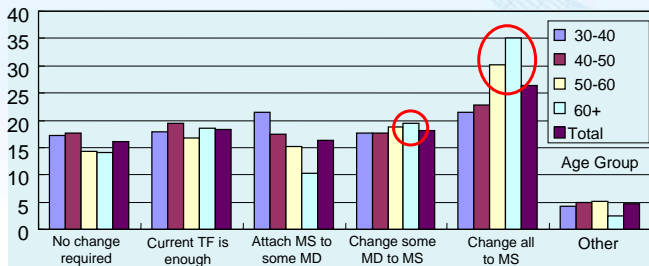
Views on Establishing Medical School System in Japan

MS



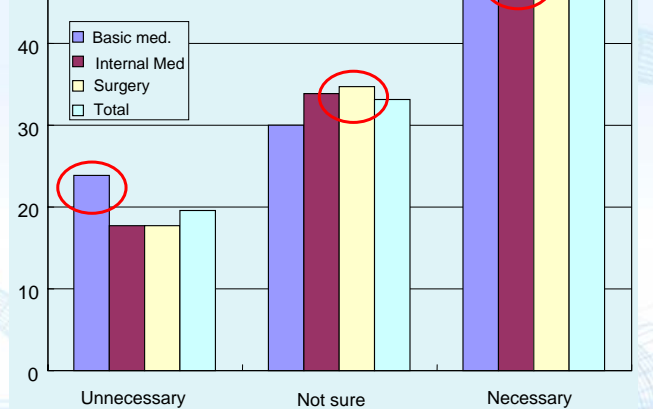
Views on MS by Age Group

MS



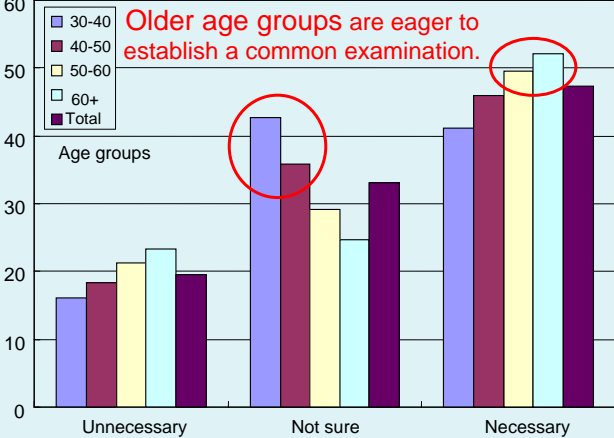
Views on Necessity of Common Entrance Examination

MS



Views on Necessity of Common Entrance Examination by Age Group

MS



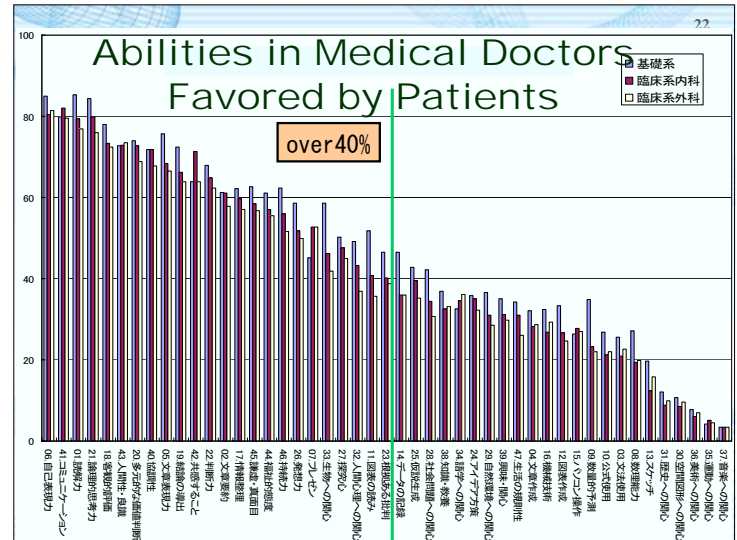
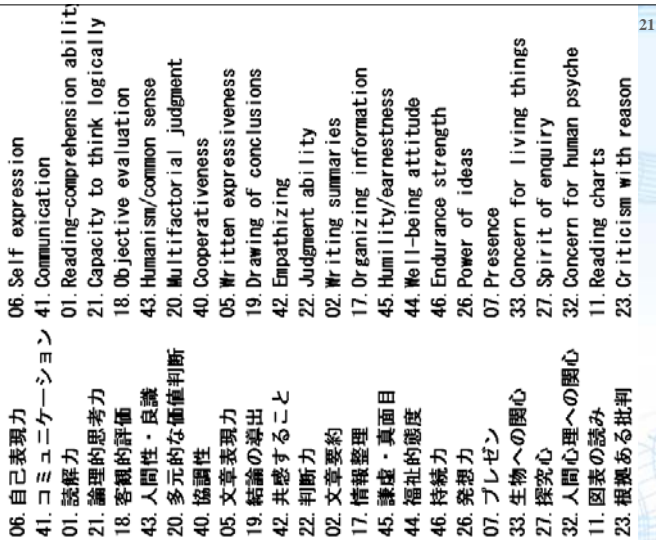
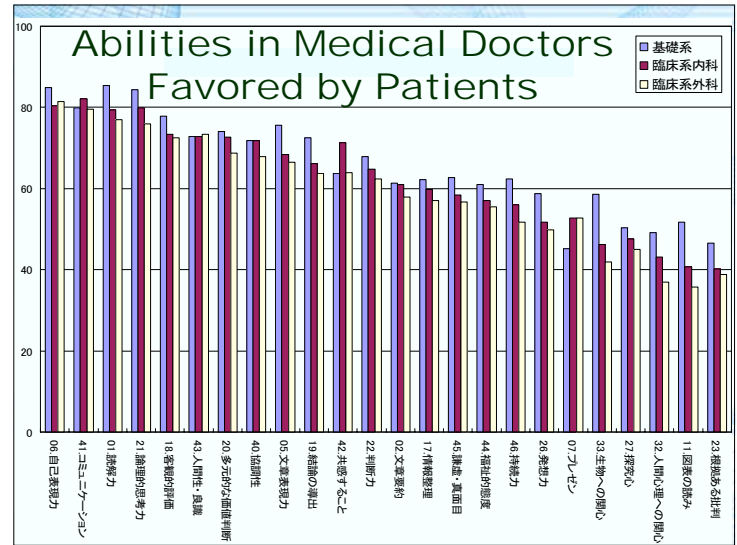
Results from Analysis

- ◆ Basic Med. eager to TF and MS
- ◆ Clinical Med.:
 - ◆ Some agree with the current method (HS, TF)
 - ◆ Younger group: some satisfied with current method
 - ◆ Older group: eager to establish MS
- ◆ Private univ. prefer MS more than National univ.
- ◆ Developing common examination for MS
 - ◆ Younger group cannot decide which is better
 - ◆ Older group: half agree and half disagree (Basic Med.)

Abilities in Medical Doctors Favored by Patients

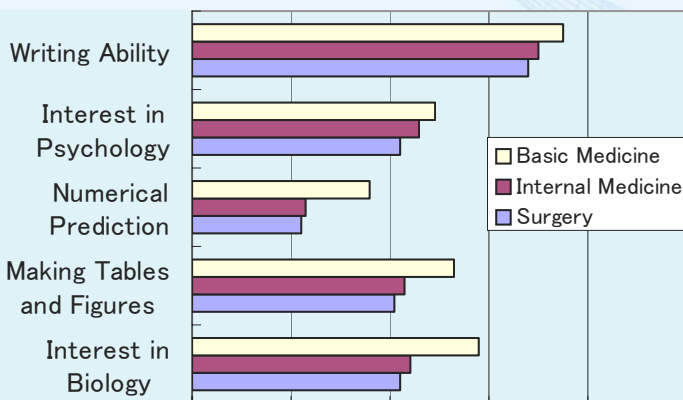
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- ◆ Ability to express oneself well
- ◆ Communicative ability
- ◆ Comprehensive ability
- ◆ Logical thinking ability
- ◆ Ability to judge objectively
- ◆ Humanity and common sense
- ◆ Judgment from multidimensional viewpoints
- ◆ Empathy
- ◆ Ability to summarize information
- ◆ Ability to lead various viewpoints to a conclusion



Differences in Abilities Preferred Among 3 Classifications

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Subjects Required for Medical Department Admissions

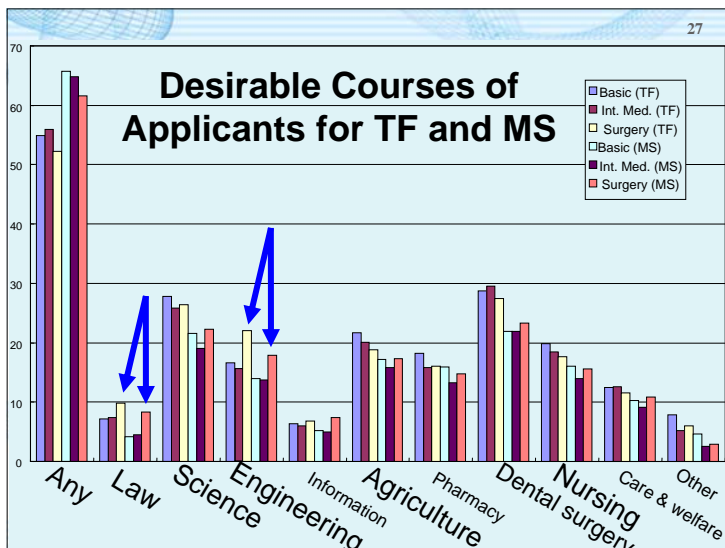
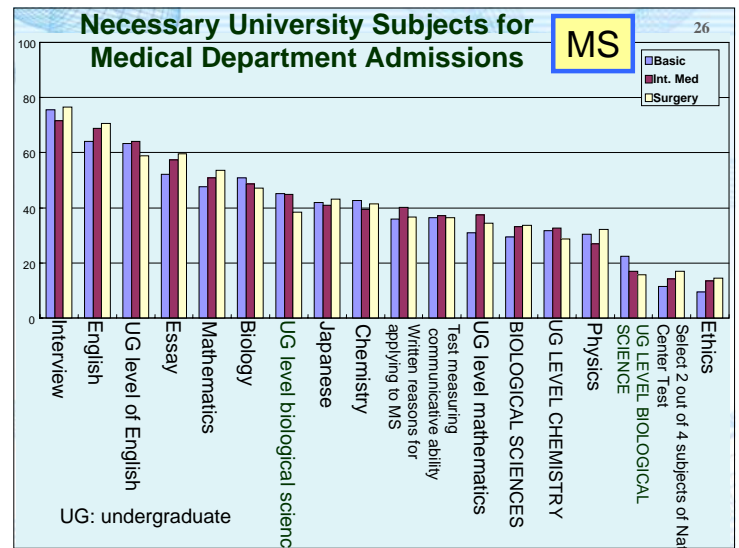
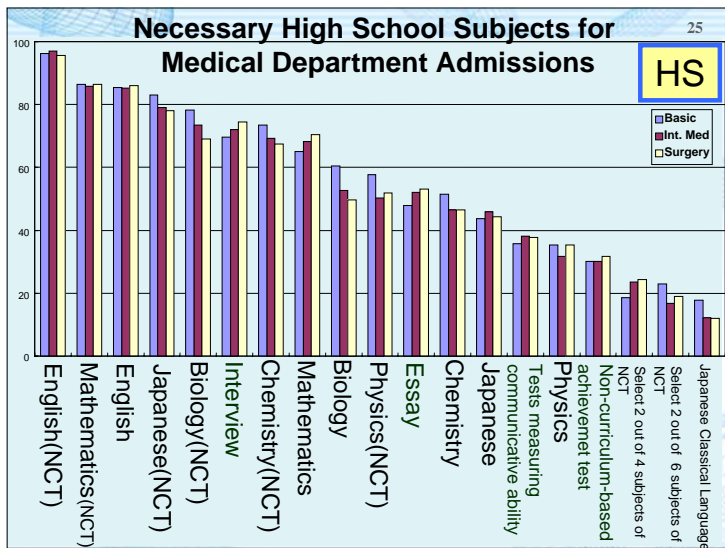
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[HS]

- ◆ English, Mathematics, Japanese Language, Biology, Personal Interview, Chemistry, Physics, Personal Essay, Japanese Communicative Skills, Non-curriculum-based achievement test

[TF, MS] need similar subjects

- ◆ English (undergraduate level), Personal Interview, Personal Essay, Mathematics, Biological Sciences, Communicative Skills
- ◆ Essay describing motives for applying to MD after finishing 4-year course at university



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Conclusion (1)

Views on Medical School in Japanese Universities

- ◆ Establishing MS will cause a big change in medical education in Japan.
- ◆ However, 60% of faculty members favor establishing a MS.
- ◆ Moreover, faculty members in higher age groups who oppose TF from non-medical courses are comparatively eager to accept such students in MS.

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Conclusion (2)

Now need to:

- ◆ Investigate timing for introducing MS in Japan
- ◆ Examine how to restructure medical education system in Japan
- ◆ Develop school subject examinations and examinations measuring communication ability and comprehensive ability

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