

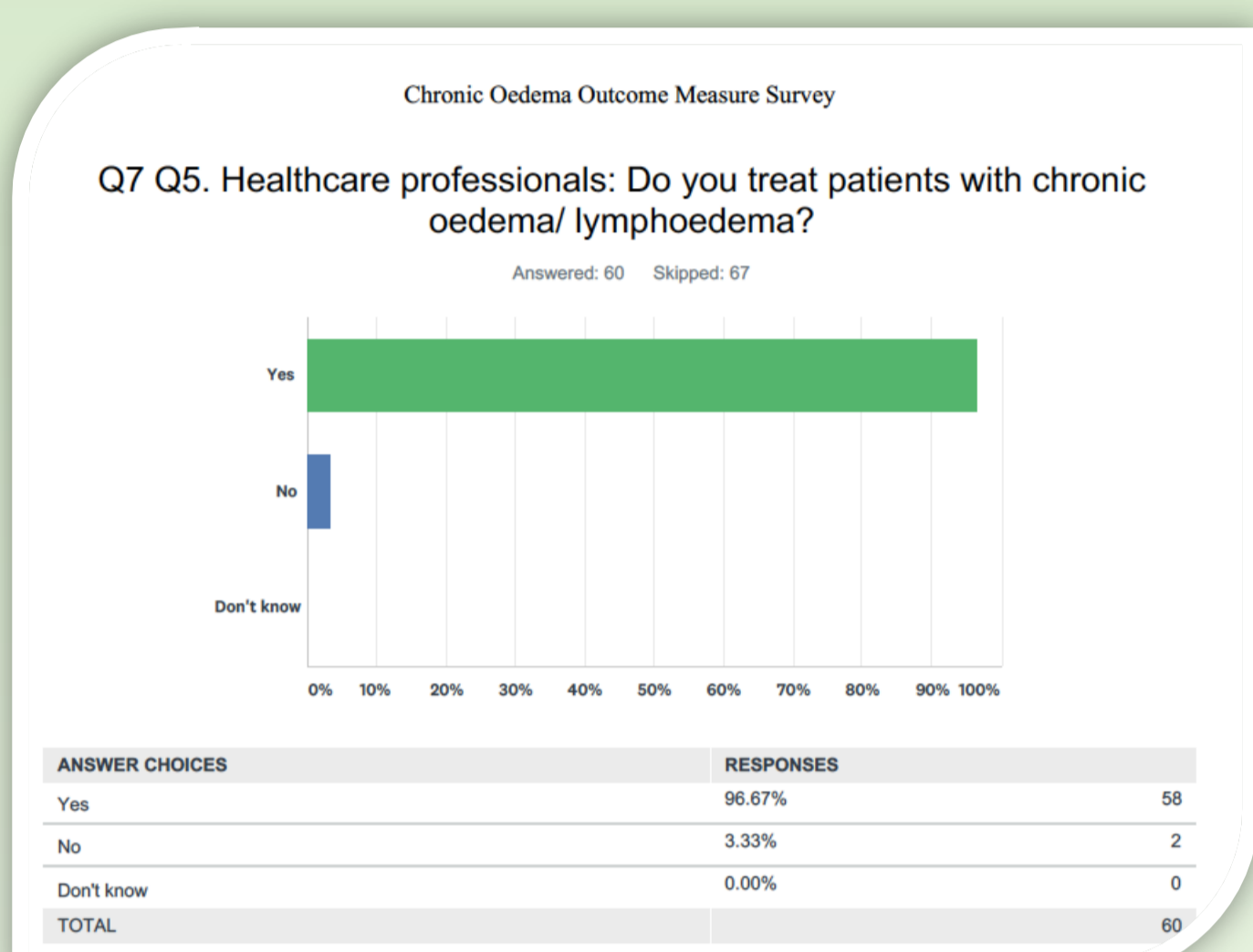
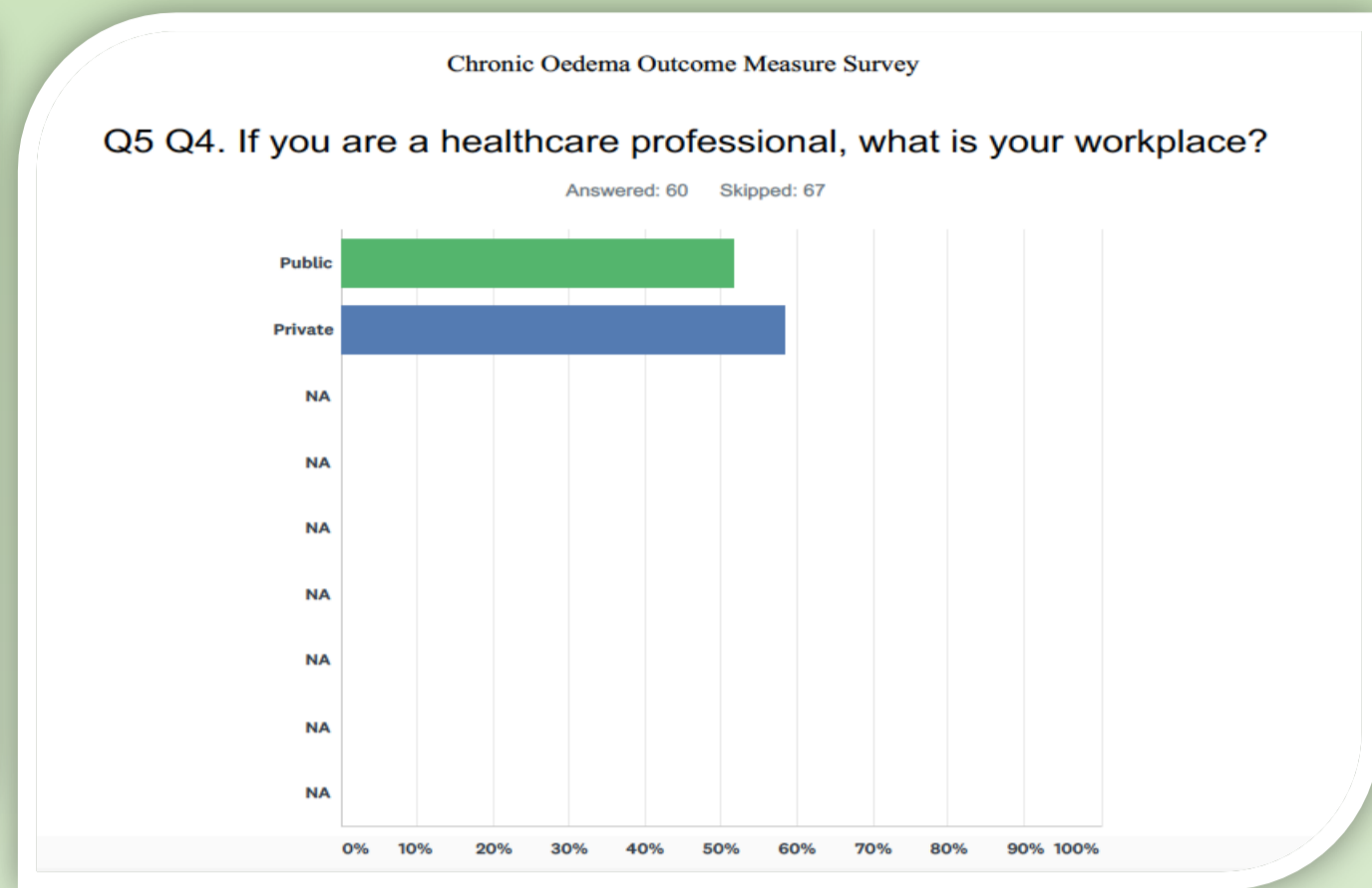
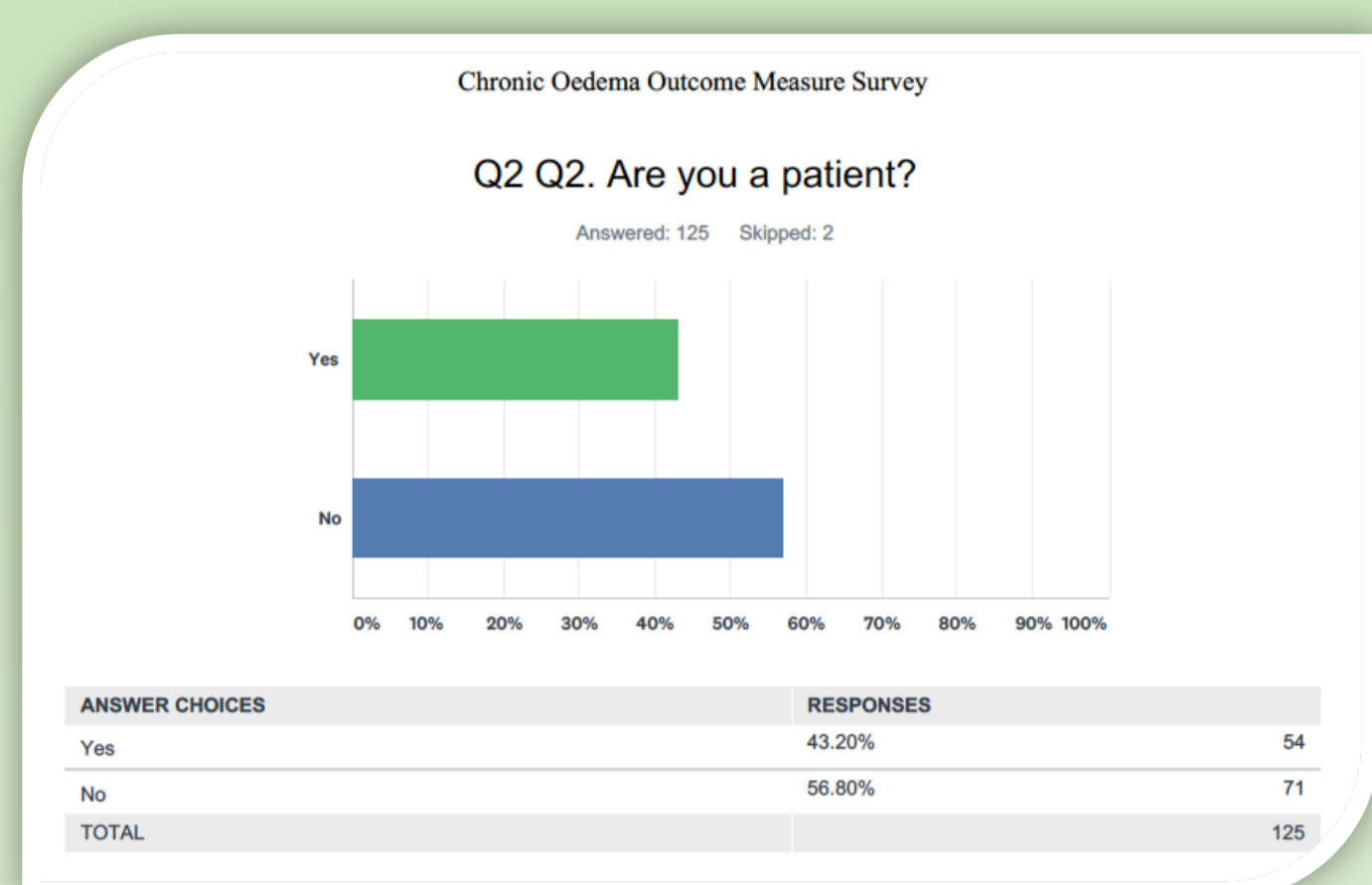
Results from Ireland

National Lymphoedema Framework Ireland (NLFI)

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Introduction

NLFI responded to the request from ILF to participate in the Chronic Oedema Outcome Measure project. The survey monkey was distributed to the relevant groups and 127 responses were returned



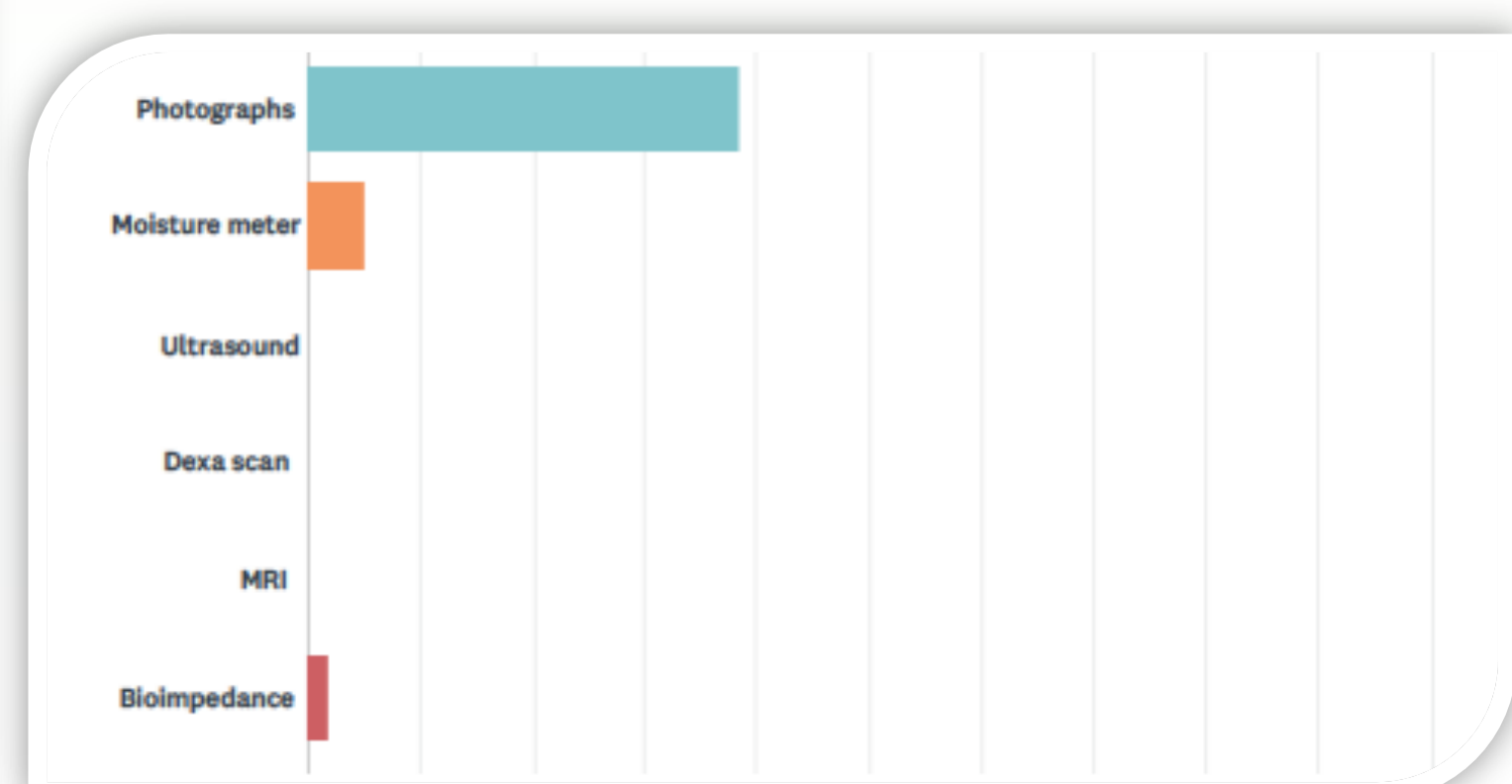
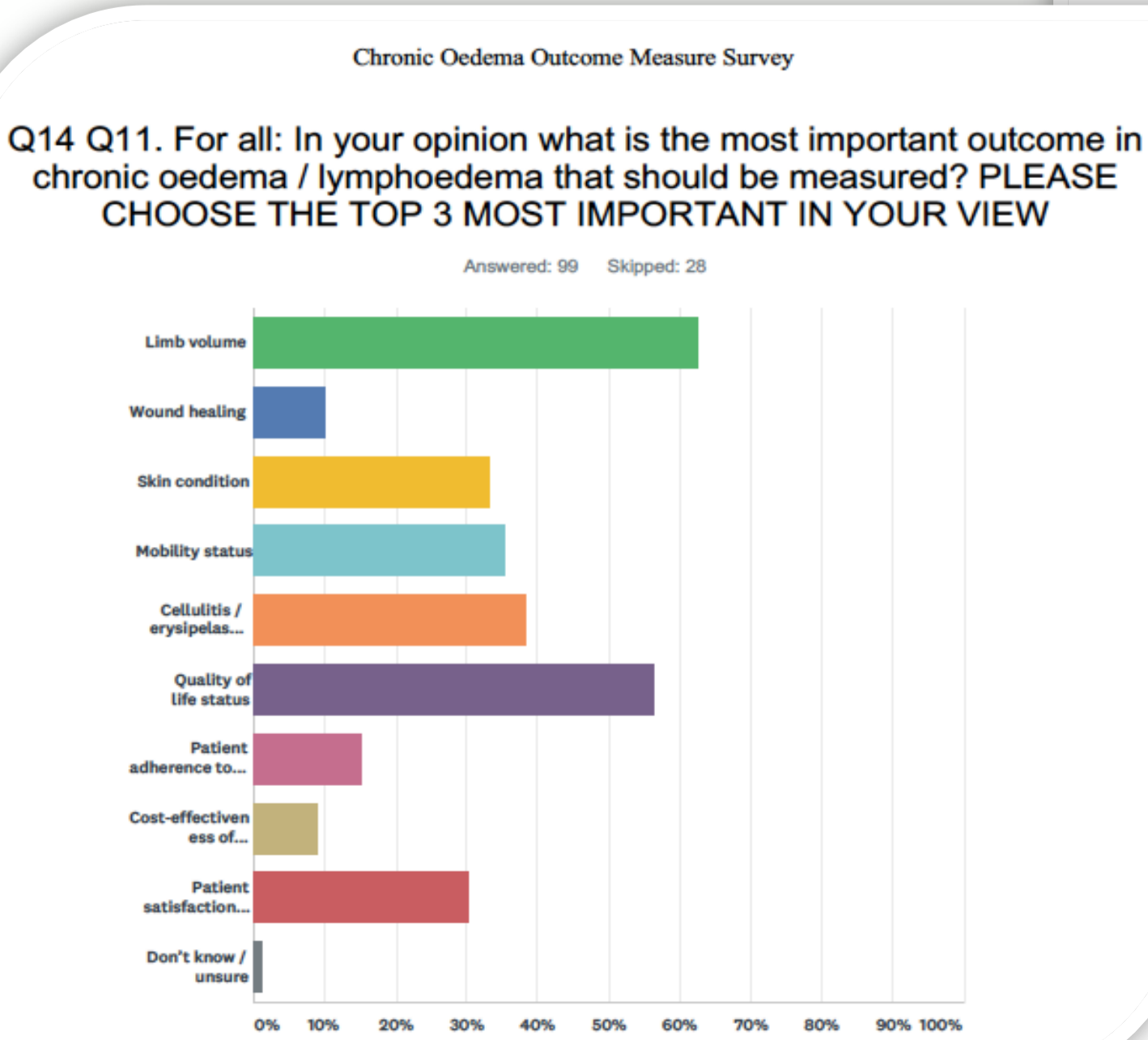
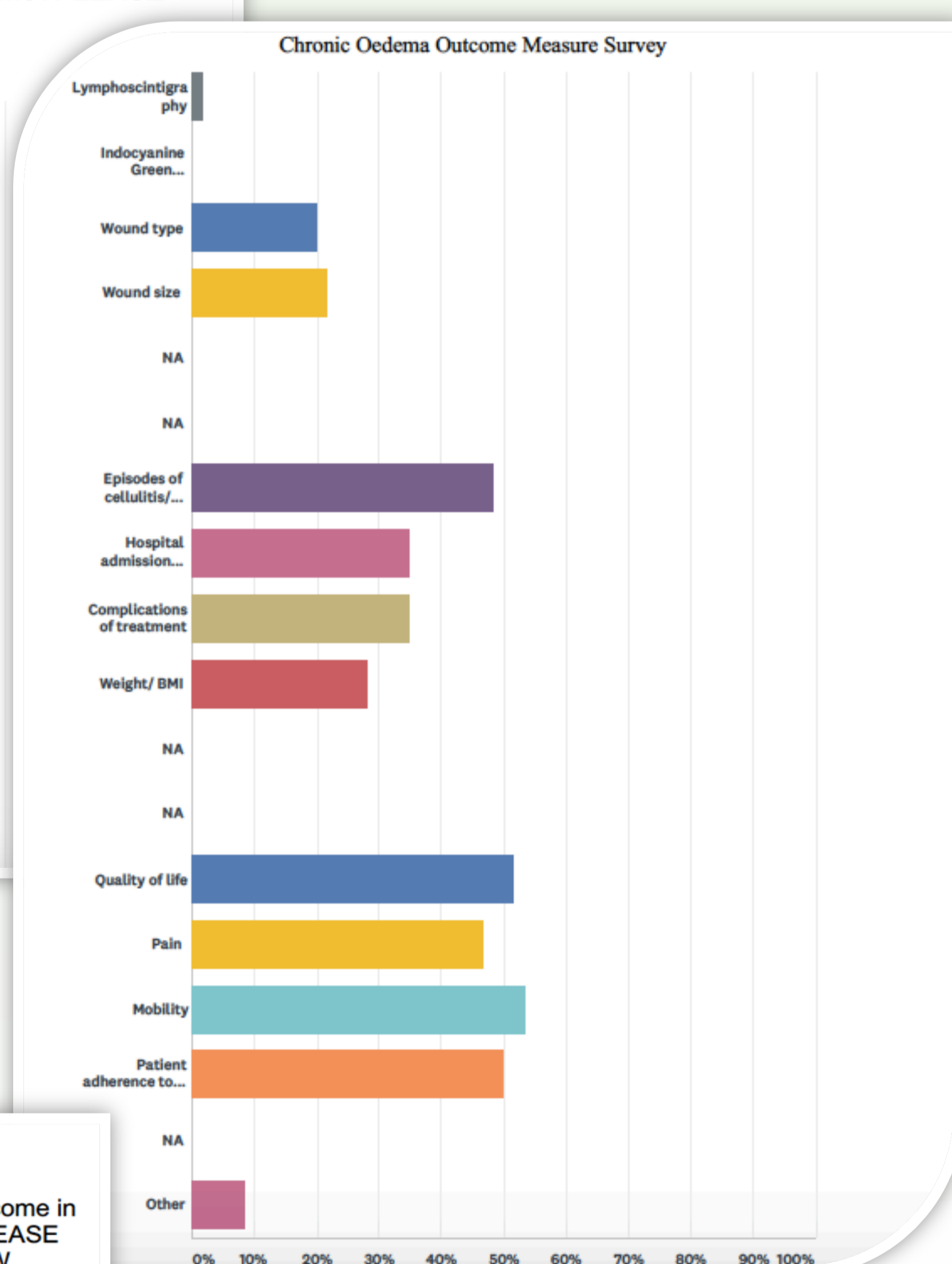
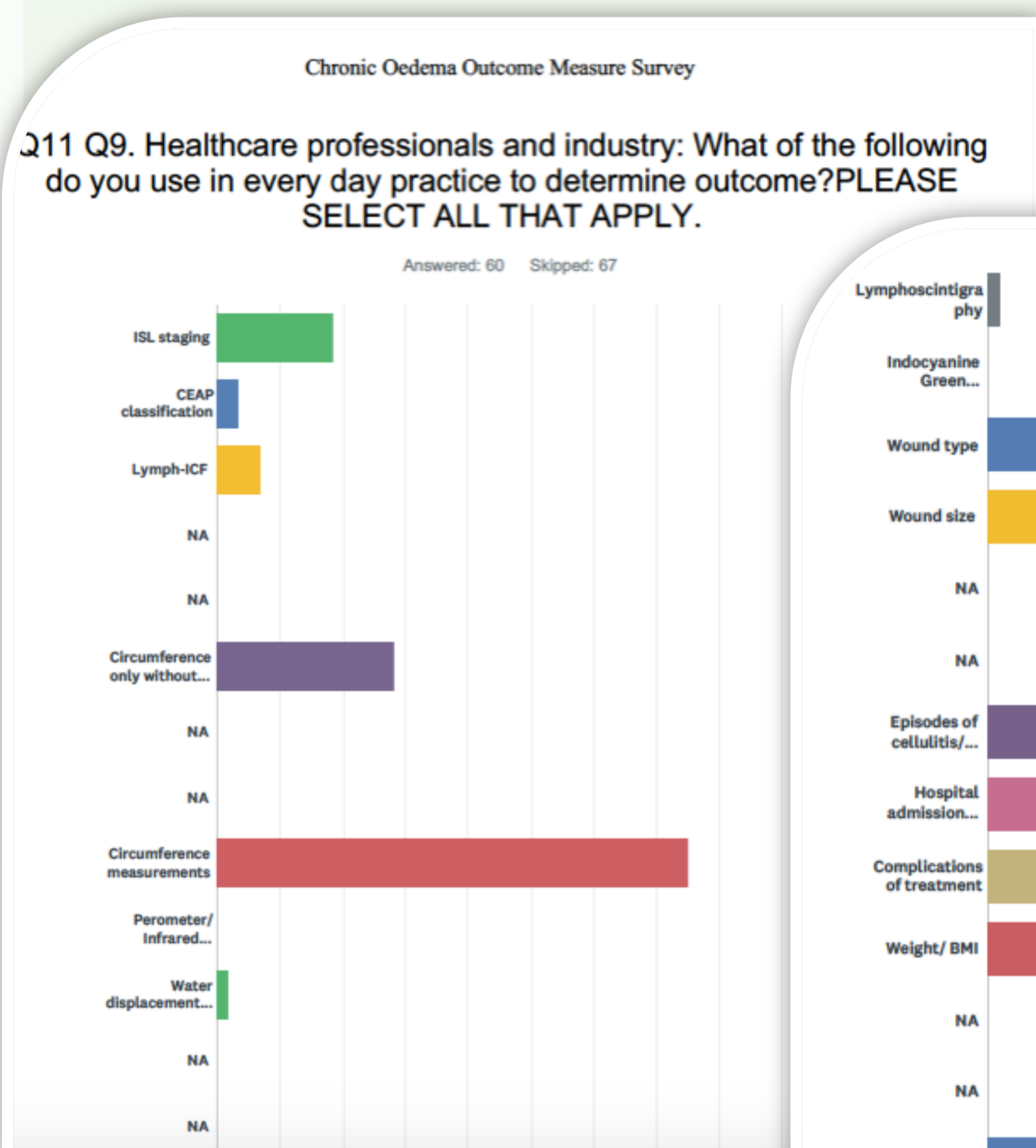
Objectives

On analysis of the responses, NLFI decided to highlight the outcome measures used most frequently amongst practitioners in Ireland

Results

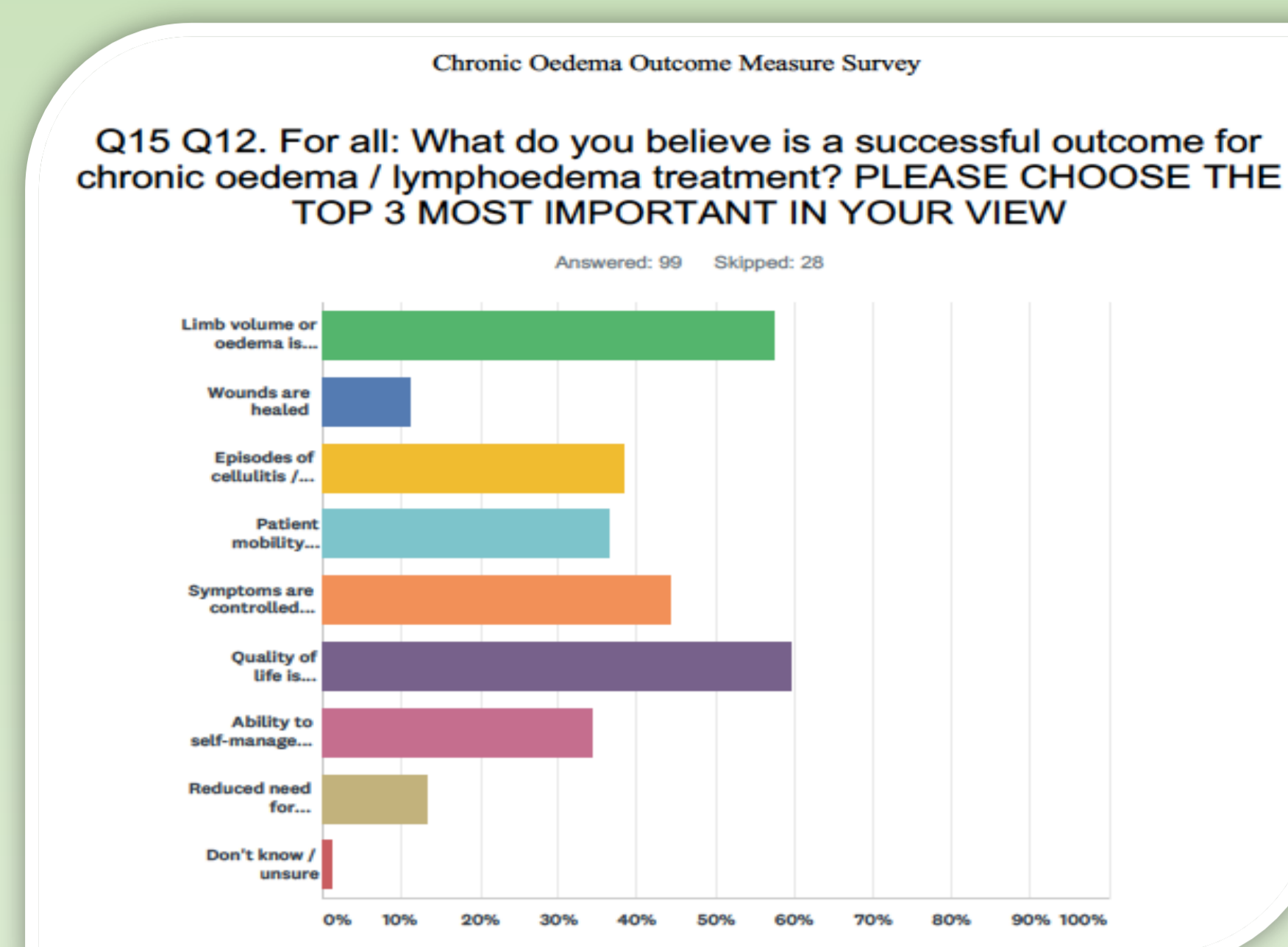
With regard to outcome measures, amongst the top 5 of those most frequently used during assessment and believed to be most important are

- Circumferential measurement with volume
- Quality of life
- Episodes of cellulitis

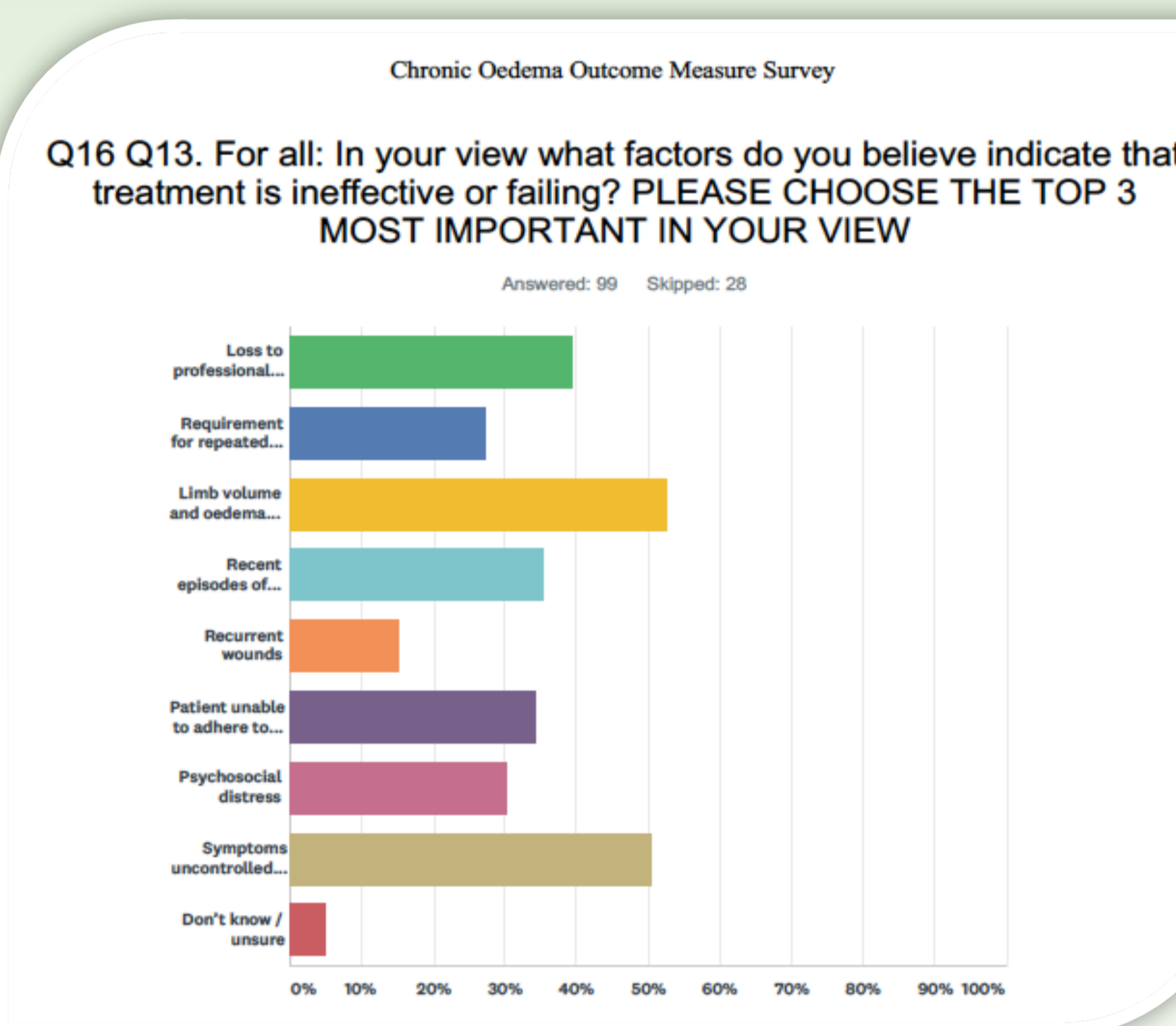


Results Contd.

The following outcome measures remained in the top 5 responses to demonstrate both successful outcome and ineffective treatment



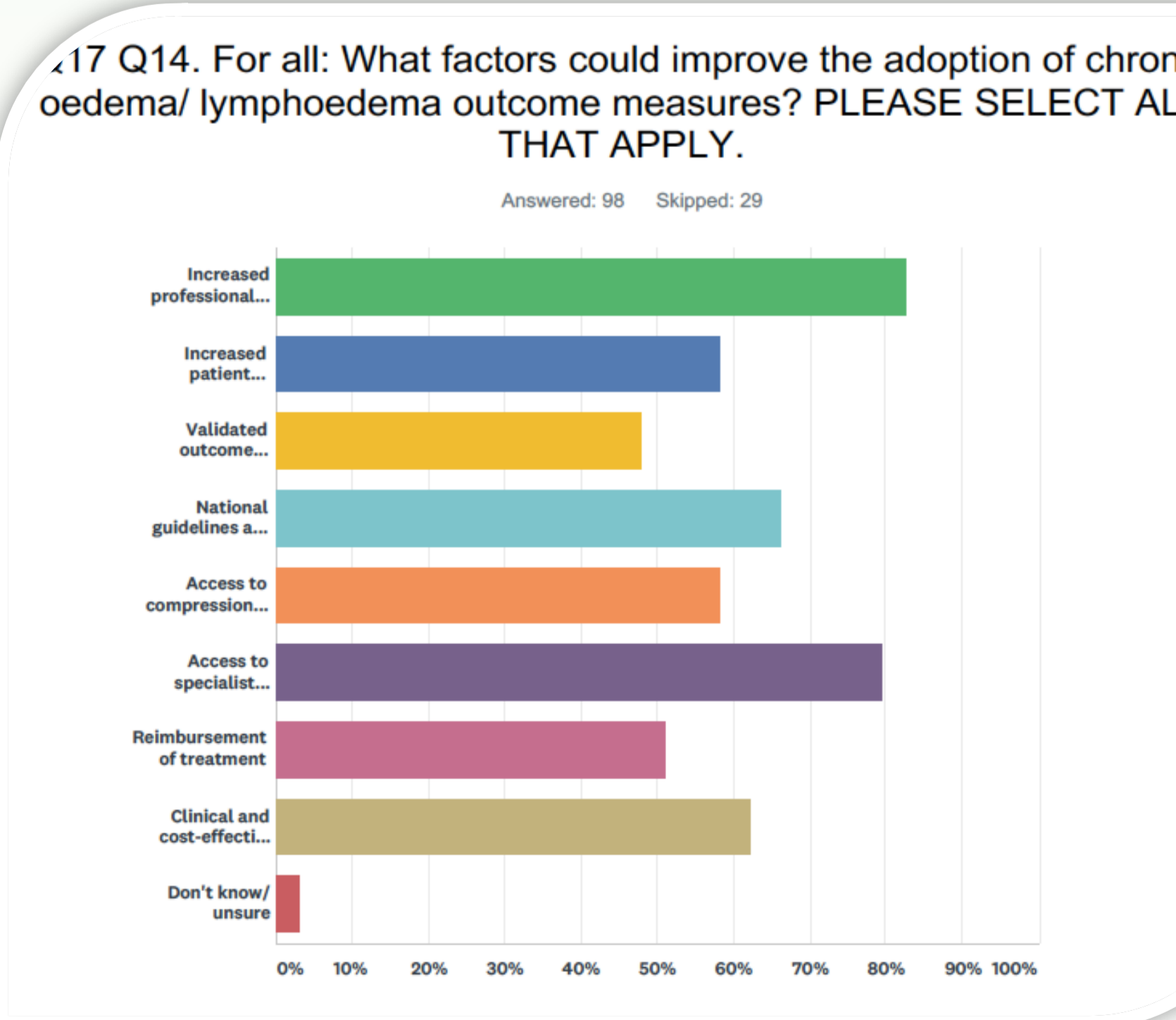
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Limb volume or oedema is stable	57.58%
Wounds are healed	11.11%
Episodes of cellulitis / erysipelas are reduced	38.38%
Patient mobility improved	36.36%
Symptoms are controlled (e.g. pain, heaviness)	44.44%
Quality of life is improved (e.g. emotions, sleep, social participation)	59.60%
Ability to self-manage with professional support	34.34%
Reduced need for professional treatment	13.13%
Don't know / unsure	1.01%
TOTAL Respondents: 99	



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Loss to professional follow-up	39.39%
Requirement for repeated intensive treatment	27.27%
Limb volume and oedema increased	52.53%
Recent episodes of cellulitis / erysipelas	35.35%
Recurrent wounds	15.15%
Patient unable to adhere to treatment	34.34%
Psychosocial distress	30.30%
Symptoms uncontrolled (e.g. pain, heaviness)	50.51%
Don't know / unsure	5.05%
TOTAL Respondents: 99	

Conclusion

The wider range of outcome measures are not commonly used in Ireland, and there is recognition that further education, specialist lymphoedema services and recognised national guidelines and standards would improve this situation.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Increased professional knowledge	82.65%
Increased patient knowledge	58.16%
Validated outcome measures	47.96%
National guidelines and standards	66.33%
Access to compression therapy	58.16%
Access to specialist chronic oedema/ lymphoedema services	79.59%
Reimbursement of treatment	51.02%
Clinical and cost-effective research in chronic oedema/ lymphoedema treatment	62.24%
Don't know / unsure	3.06%
TOTAL Respondents: 98	