

ILF-COM report from ILF Japan



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Introduction and Aim

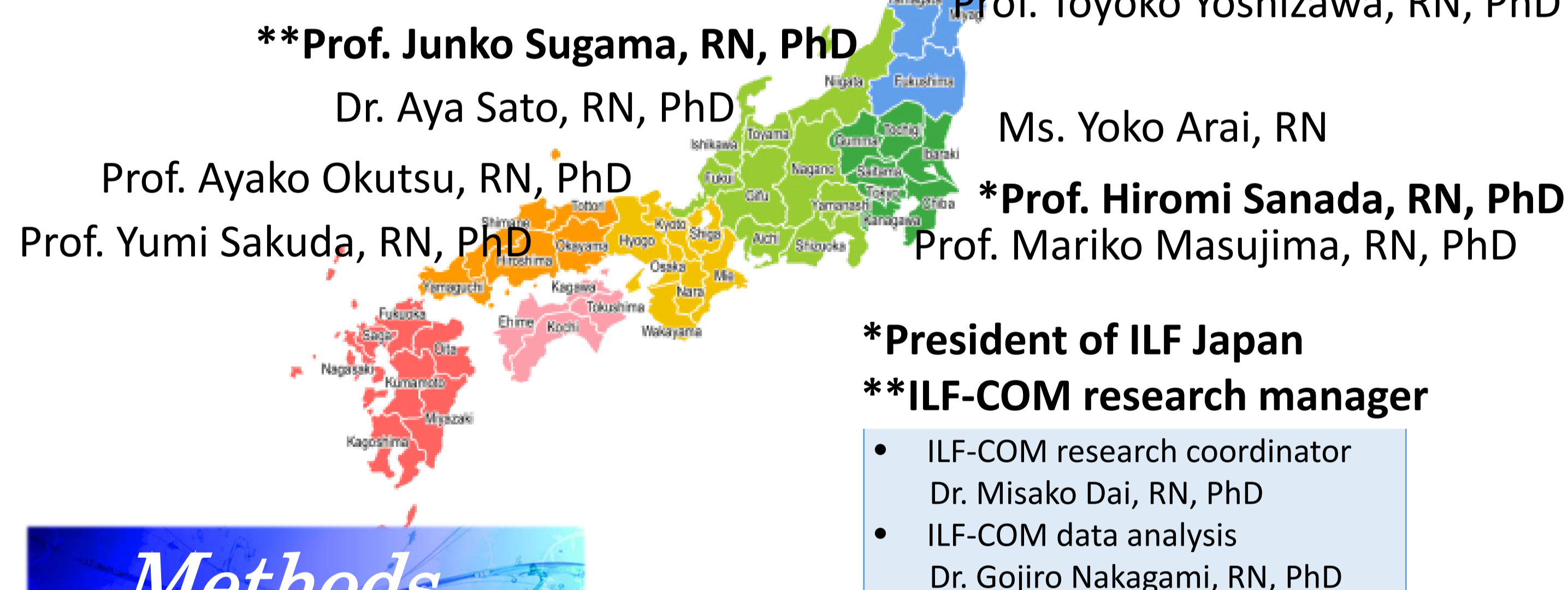
- We investigated ILF-COM from 2018 to 2019 as a part of International lymphedema Framework Japan.
- We were offered this opportunity by Prof. Christine Moffatt and ILF board members on August 2018.
- We investigated the outcome measures of lymphedema used in Japan.



Board meeting of ILF-COM in Japan (31st Aug, 2018)

Activity

We undertook ILF-COM *self administrated questionnaire survey* in Japan following board members' contribution in each area.



Methods

- We translated the ILF-COM questionnaire into Japanese followed by back translation into English to assure the translation quality.
- Questionnaire were answered via e-mail or mail.
- We put this data to both ILF and ILF-J databases.
- We compared the differences of characteristics and outcomes between lymphedema specialist and non-specialists.
- Lymphedema specialist are determined who have experience in lymphedema management.
- We compared the differences of characteristics (professions and their workplace) between ultrasonography users and ultrasonography non-users within the lymphedema specialist group.
- Statistical analyses were performed by Pearson chi-square test or Fisher's exact probability test using Stata/SE 15.0 (Stata Corp).

Discussion and Conclusion

- There are no standardized methods that are used for lymphedema severity assessment.
- ISL is the most common classification used, but only 60% of lymphedema specialists used.
- lymphedema specialists use technologies such as ultrasonography. Spreading the standardized evaluation by ultrasonography will be the next target in Japan. This will contribute to lymphedema management for health care providers in both hospital and community.

Results

We analyzed 205 responses.

Table1. Differences of characteristics and outcomes between lymphoedema specialists and non-specialists

		Non-specialists (N=129)		lymphedema specialists (N=76)		Total (N=205)		P value
Professions	Nurses	108	(85)	51	(67)	159	(78)	0.02
	Physicians	4	(3)	4	(5)	8	(4)	
	Physiotherapists	7	(6)	13	(17)	20	(10)	
	Occupational therapists	3	(2)	5	(7)	8	(4)	
	Other	5	(4)	3	(4)	8	(4)	
Years of experience		15	(7-27)	18	(14-24)	17	(10-25.5)	
Workplace	Community	19	(15)	8	(11)	27	(13)	0.00
	Hospital	66	(51)	56	(74)	122	(60)	
	lymphedema specialist center	0	0	5	(7)	5	(2)	
	Wound specialist center	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Academic institution	36	(28)	6	(8)	42	(20)	
	Other	8	(6)	1	(1)	9	(4)	
Years of experience in lymphedema management				7	(2.5-11.5)			
Severity classification	ISL	14	(11)	42	(61)	56	(29)	0.00
	CEAP	1	(1)	1	(1)	2	(1)	0.18
	Lymph-ICF	1	(1)	3	(4)	4	(2)	0.10
	Don't know	105	(86)	26	(38)	131	(69)	
Circumferences	Without calculating volume	52	(42)	62	(89)	114	(59)	0.00
	Volumetric	21	(18)	46	(75)	67	(38)	0.00
Evaluation	Perometer	0	0	2	(3)	2	(1)	0.13
	Water displacement	0	0	2	(3)	2	(1)	0.05
	Don't know	95	(82)	13	(21)	108	(61)	
	Picture	20	(17)	46	(66)	66	(35)	0.00
	Moisture meter	2	(2)	4	(6)	6	(3)	0.12
	Ultrasonography	8	(7)	24	(34)	32	(17)	0.00
	DEXA	0	0	1	(1)	1	(1)	0.19
	MRI	1	(1)	2	(3)	3	(2)	0.28
	Bio impedance	1	(1)	8	(11)	9	(5)	0.00
	Lymph scintigraphy	4	(3)	4	(6)	8	(4)	0.43
Determining deterioration	ICG	2	(2)	8	(11)	10	(5)	0.00
	Wound type	4	(3)	7	(10)	11	(6)	0.06
	Wound size	17	(14)	14	(20)	31	(16)	0.30
	Don't know	84	(71)	10	(14)	94	(50)	
	Episode of cellulitis	48	(39)	62	(84)	110	(56)	0.00
	Hospitalization	13	(11)	19	(26)	32	(16)	0.00
	Complications of treatment	10	(8)	25	(34)	35	(18)	0.00
	Weight/BMI (overweight)	27	(22)	46	(62)	73	(37)	0.00
	Don't know	60	(49)	8	(11)	68	(35)	
	Psychosocial effect	Quality of life	58	(47)	62	(86)	120	(61)
Pain		40	(32)	39	(54)	79	(40)	0.00
Mobility		33	(27)	42	(58)	75	(38)	0.00
Patient adherence		12	(10)	31	(43)	43	(22)	0.00
Don't know		48	(39)	5	(7)	53	(27)	

Table2. Differences of characteristics between ultrasonography-users and non-users

		Non-ultrasonography		Ultrasonography		Total		p
Professions (n=69)	Nurses	32	(69)	12	(52)	44	(5)	0.02
	Physicians	0	(0)	4	(17)	4	(63)	
	Physiotherapists	10	(21)	3	(13)	13	(8)	
	Occupational therapists	3	(6)	2	(8)	5	(7)	
	Other	1	(2)	2	(8)	3	(4)	
Workplace (n=63)	Community	6	(14)	1	(4.5)	7	(11)	0.05
	Hospital	34	(83)	17	(77.2)	51	(81)	
	lymphedema center	1	(2)	4	(18.2)	5	(8)	

Data: N(%), median (interquartile range)



Hands-on program in International summer program, Tokyo, 2018



Lecture for lymphedema therapists, Ishikawa, 2018