

Hematospermia has been experienced by one-third of hemophilia patients

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Introduction

Hematospermia (bloody semen) is usually a symptom of urological relevance. However, it has been often found in hemophilia patients. Generally speaking, blood in semen shows a slight possibility of cancer, especially prostate cancer when found in men of age 40 and older. Shyness and embarrassment, however, prevent the patients from informing the doctors. As a result, their condition seems to have been underdiagnosed. Consequently, there are almost no data on the incidence or recommendation and treatment of hematospermia concerning the patients with hemophilia.

Objectives and Methods

In order to grasp the present situation of hematospermia in hemophilia, a questionnaire was conducted anonymously on 317 hemophilia patients in 9 hospitals across Japan.

Results

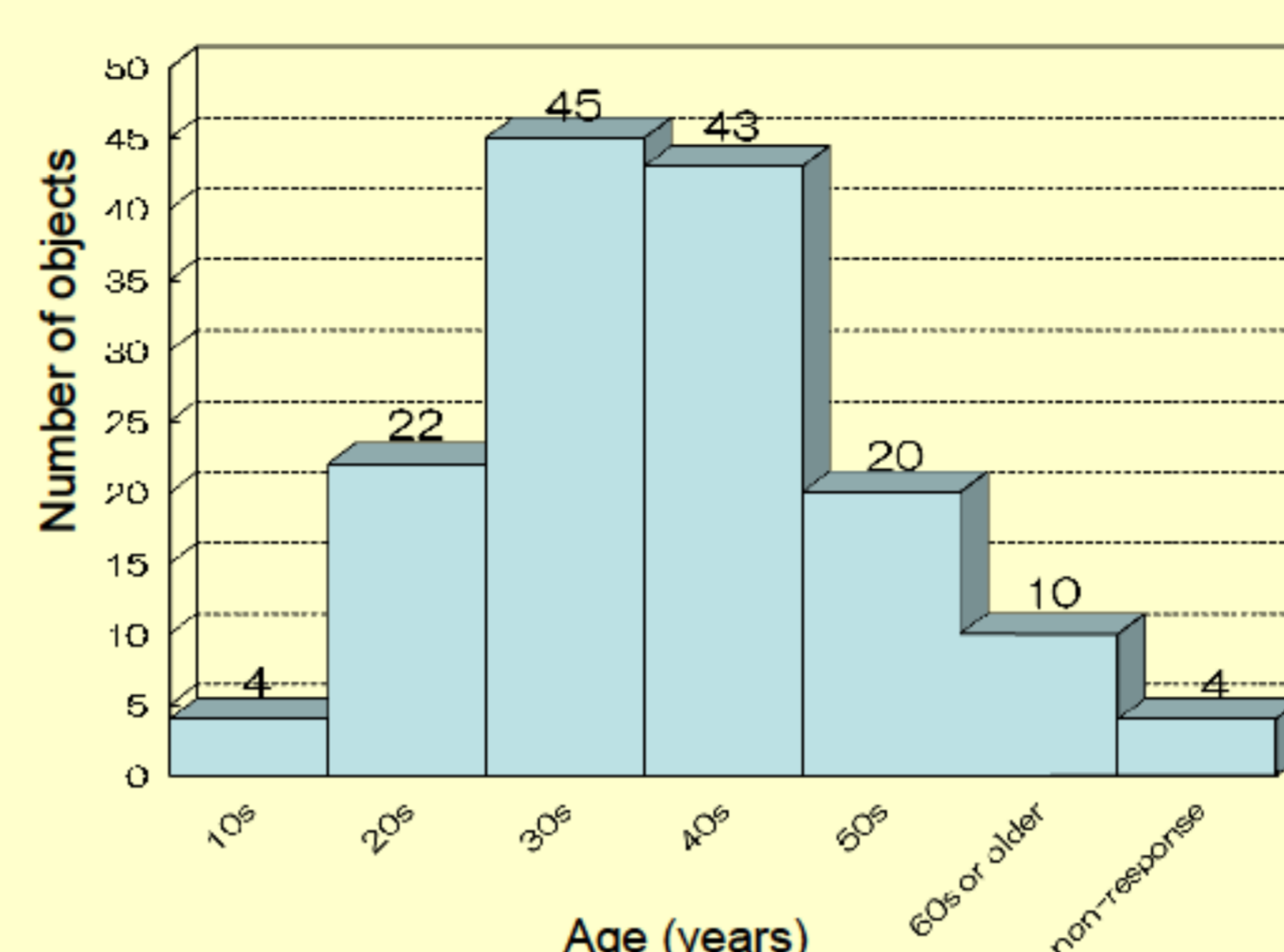


Fig.1. Age distribution of the analysis objects (n=148).

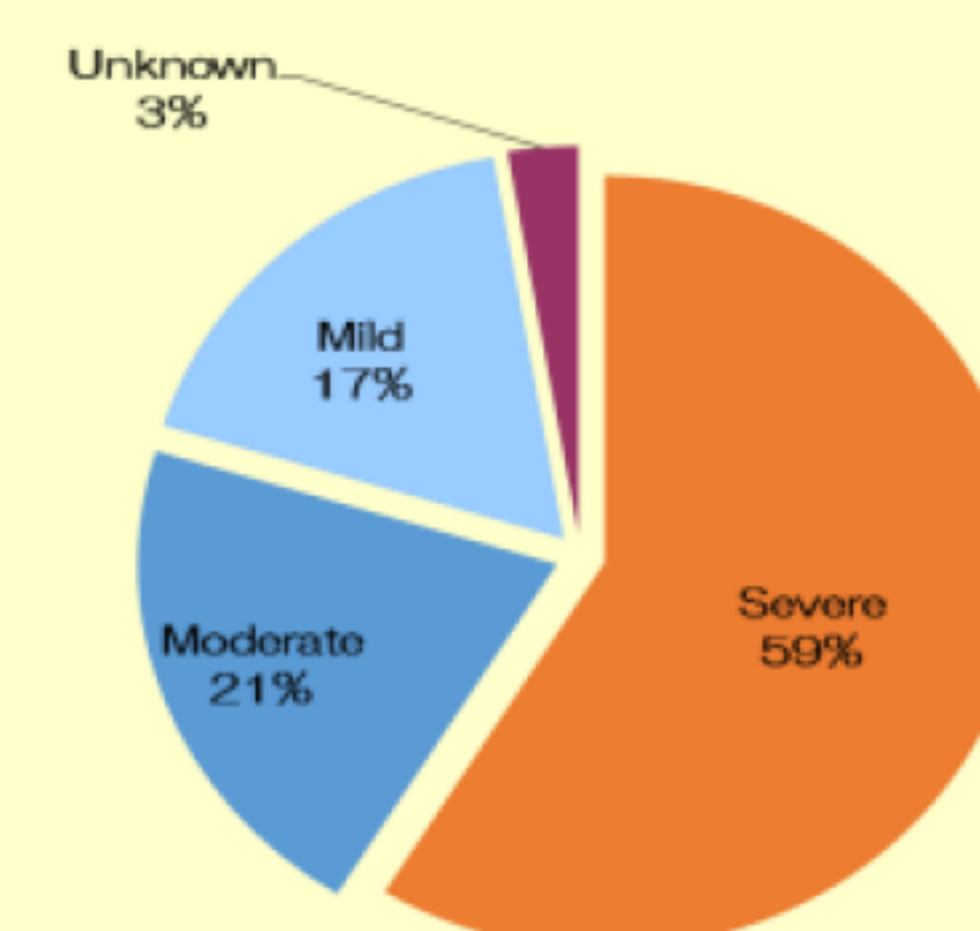


Fig.2. Severity of hemophilia of the analysis objects (n=148).

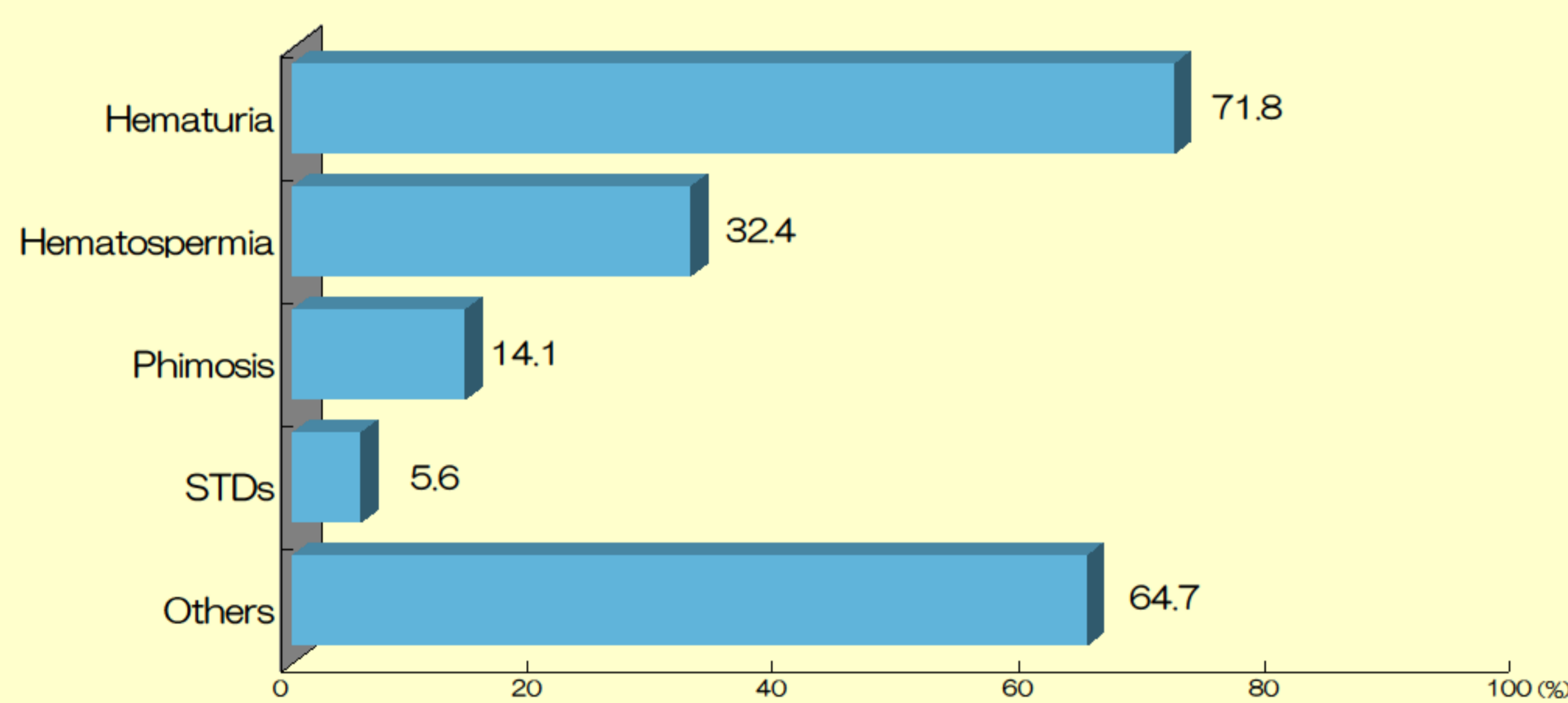


Fig.3. Rates of urological problems which patients felt that they were in need of question.

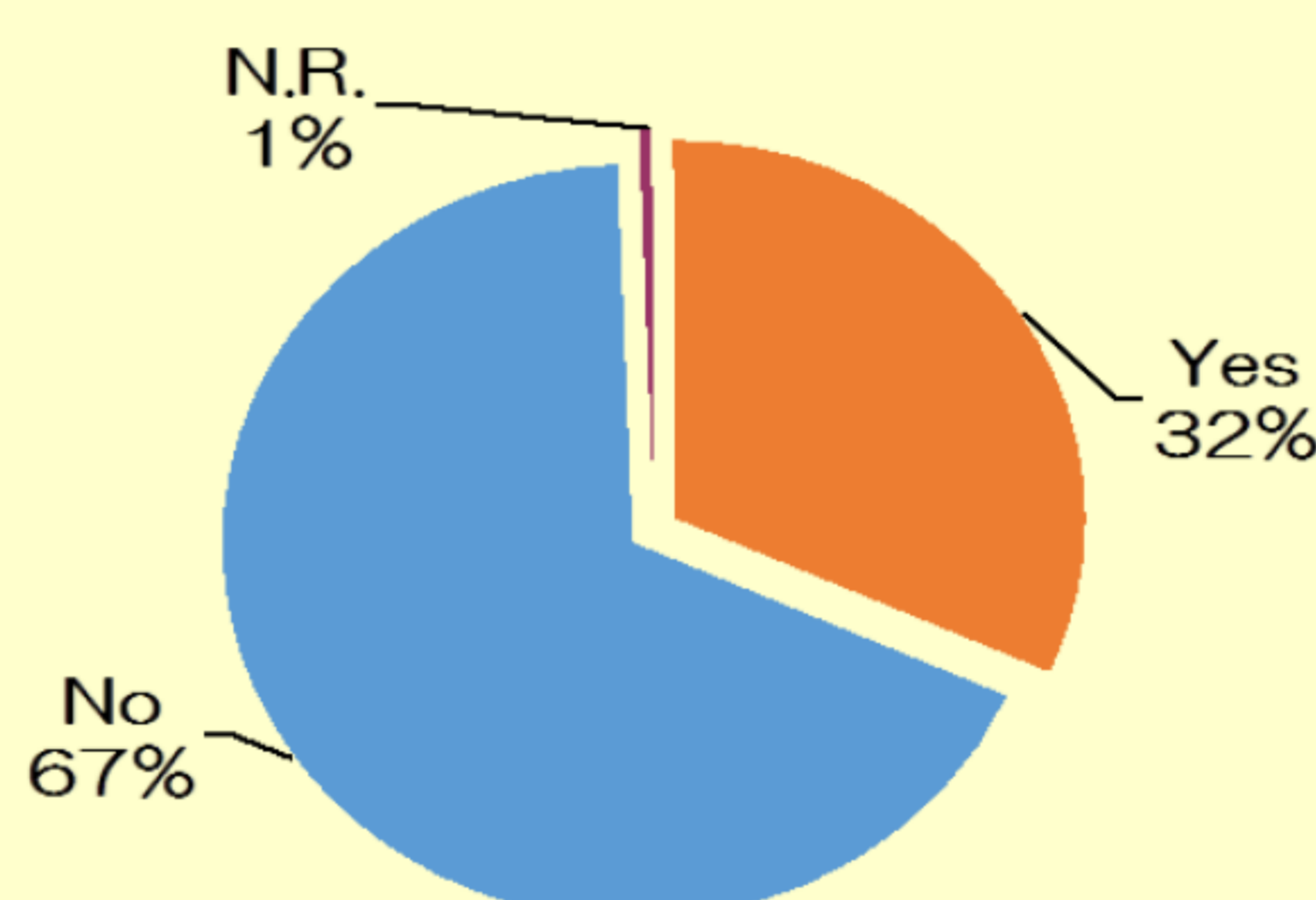


Fig.4. Rate of the patients who experienced hematospermia. No significant difference was found regarding severity of hemophilia or with/without viral infection.

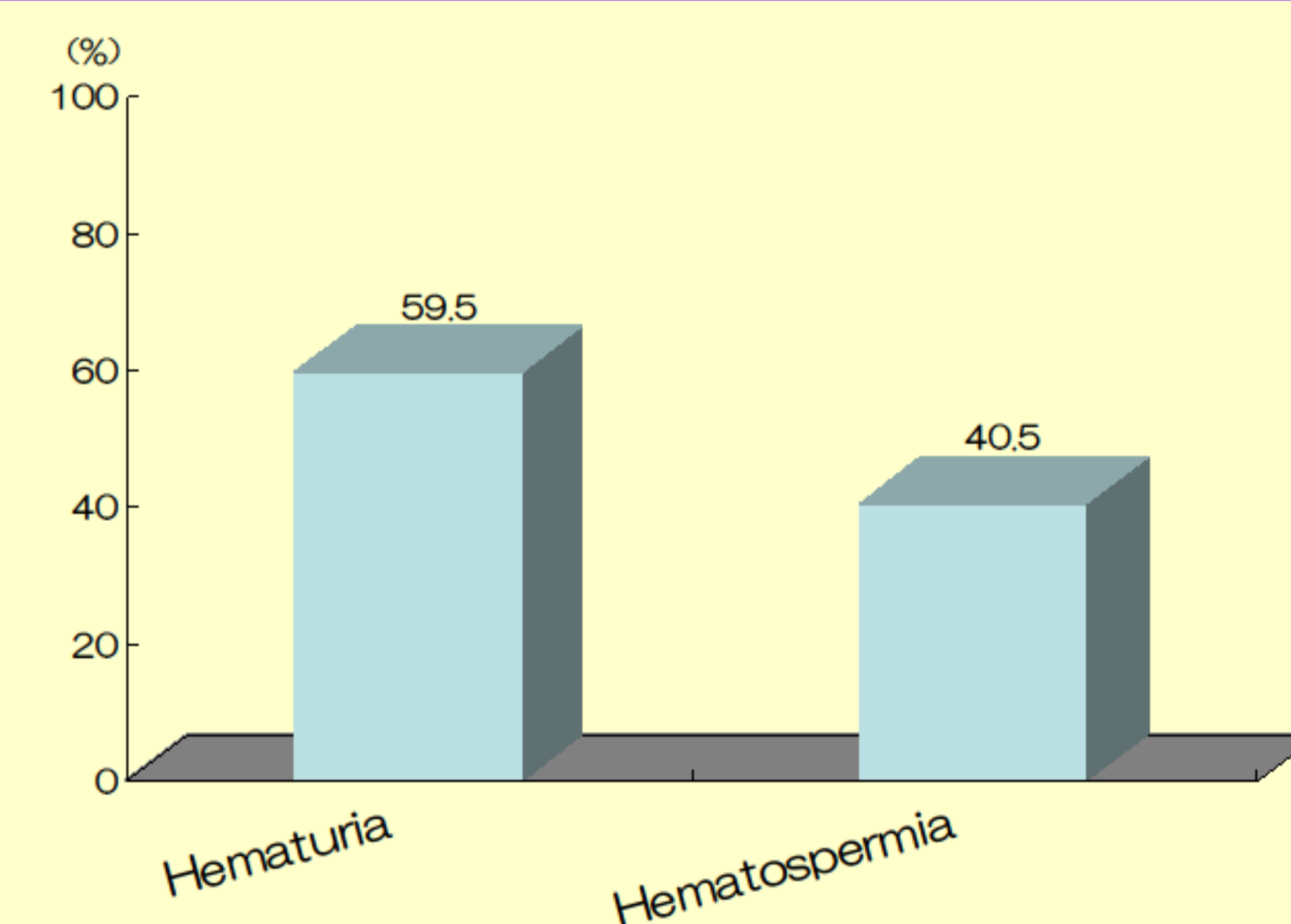


Fig.5. Rates of the patients who are in favor of coagulation factor replacement therapy in case of hematuria and hematospermia.

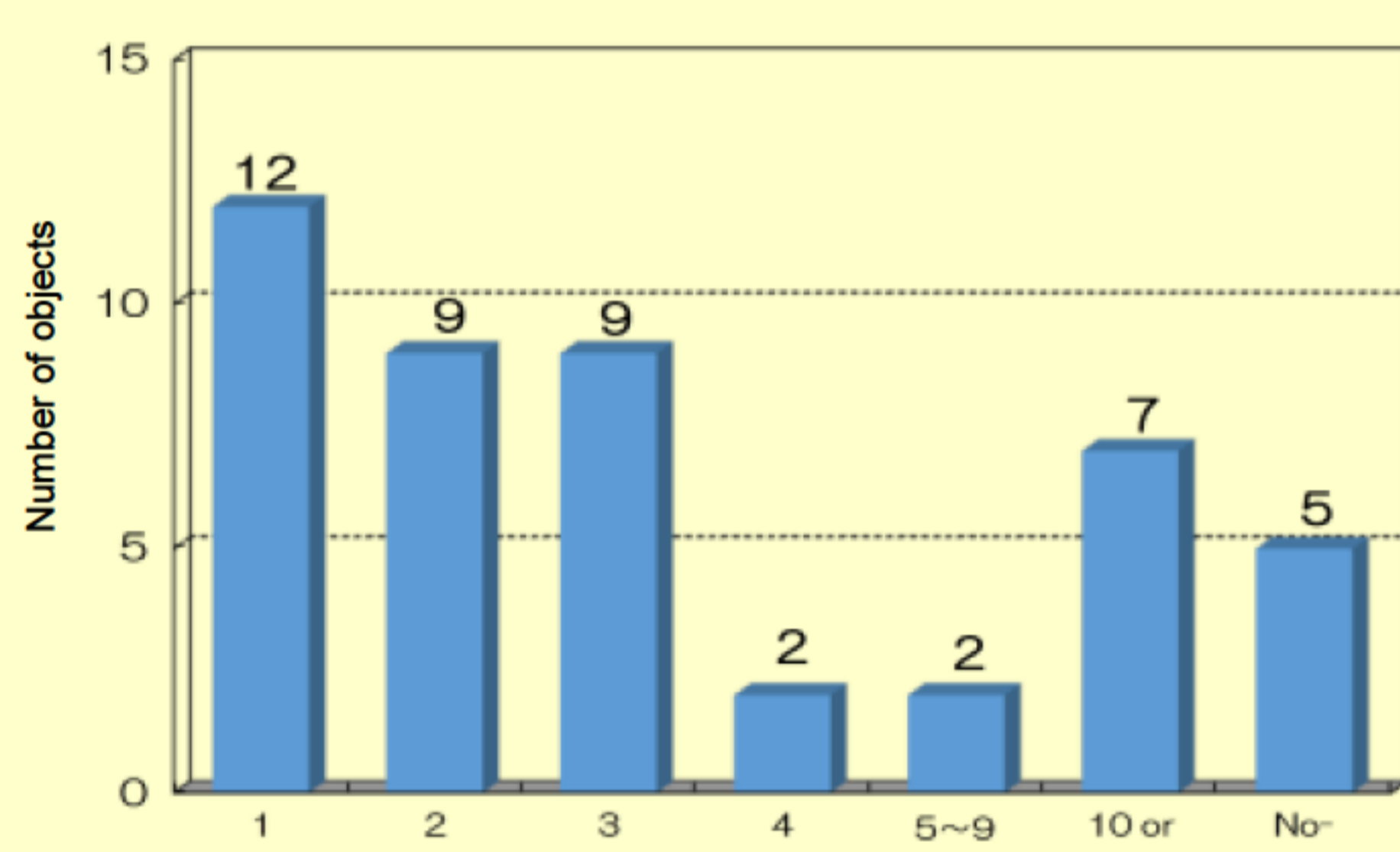


Fig.6. Number of hematospermia in each experienced patient. The average number of times is 4.6. (n=46).

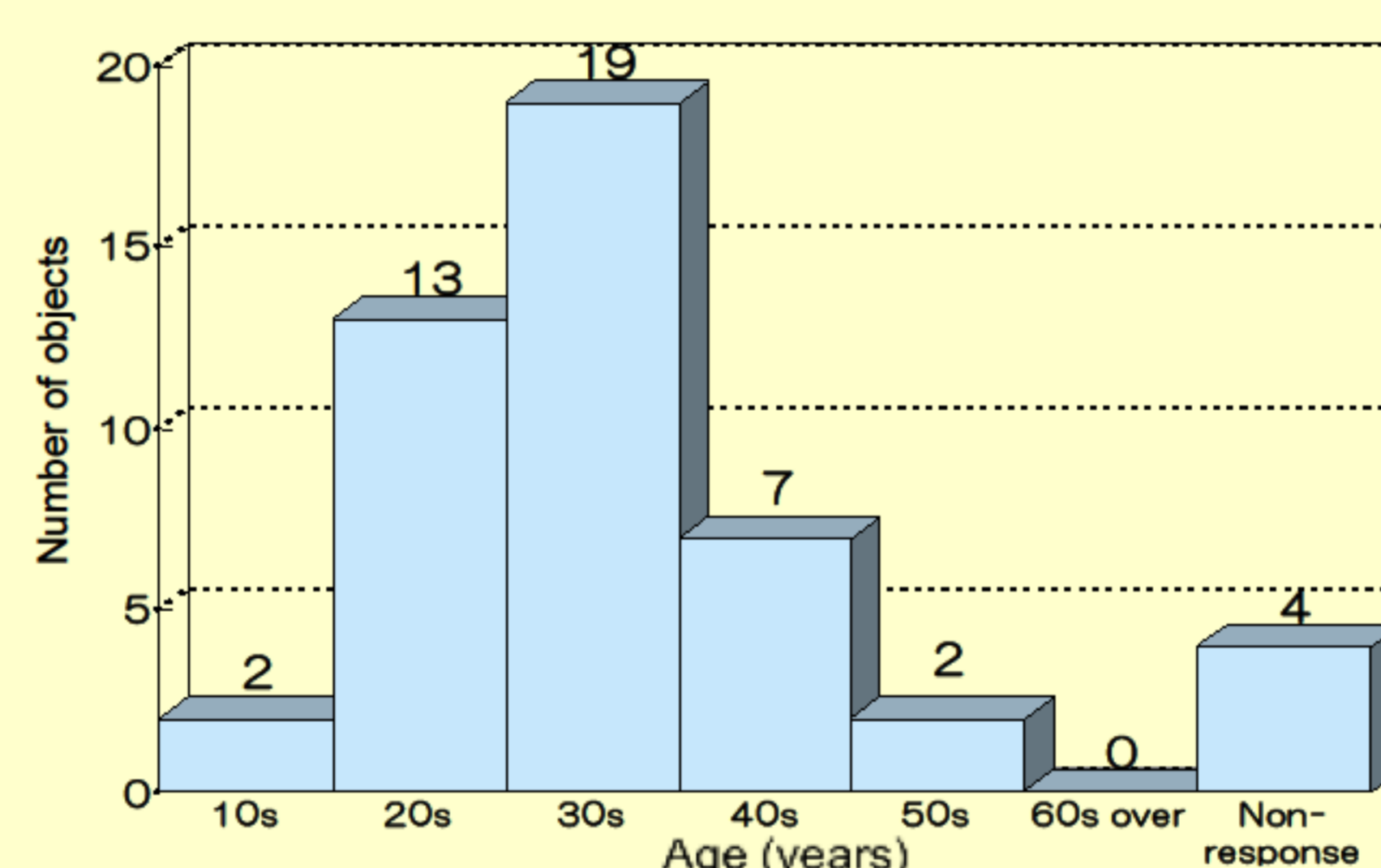


Fig.7. Age distribution of the analysis objects who experienced hematospermia (n=47).

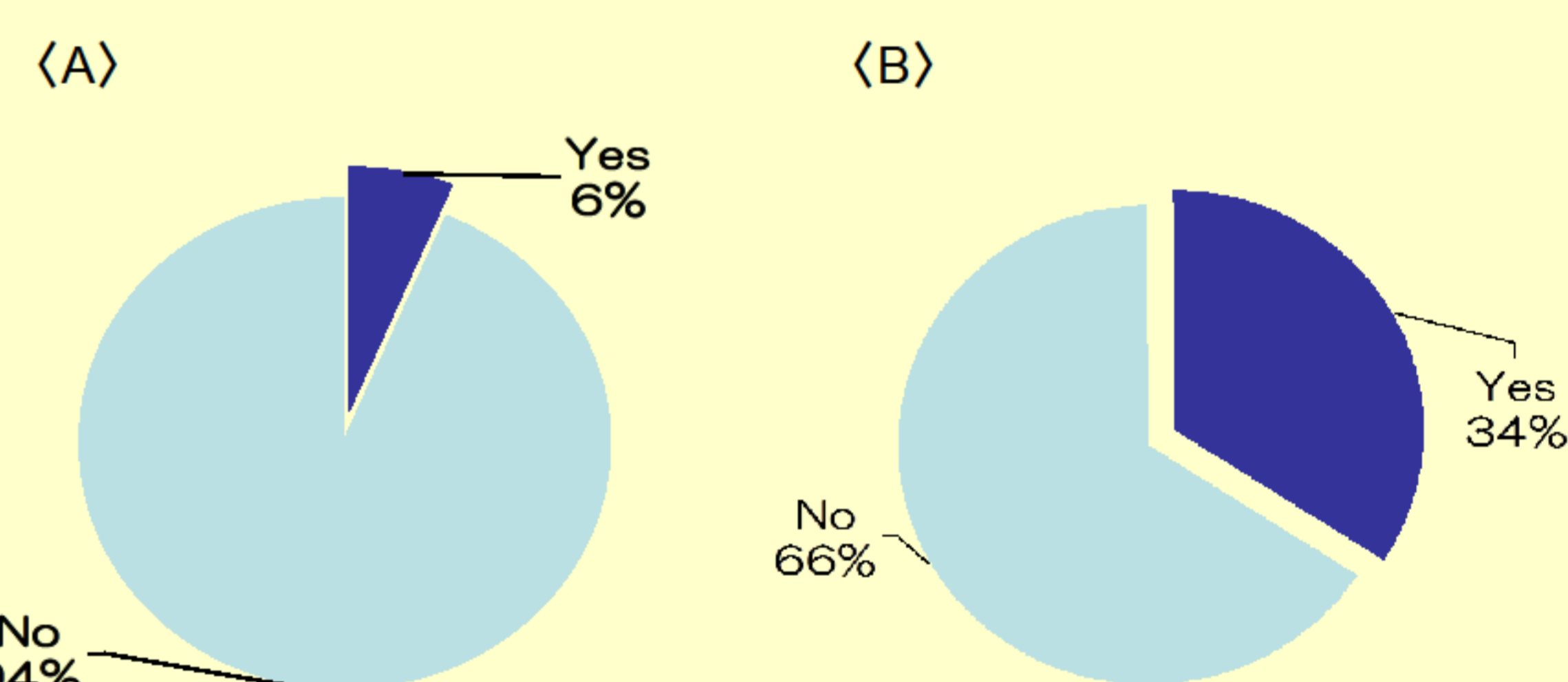


Fig.8. Rates of hematospermia experienced patients who consulted with family members (A) or medical professionals (B).

The response rate was 48%, and 148 questionnaires were analyzed. The analysis objects were adolescents and adults, and mean age (SD) was 40.3 (11.9). The percentage of severe hemophilia was 58%, and the rest was moderate or mild. And 35% of them were married. Forty-seven patients (32%) out of 148 patients experienced bloody semen and the average number of the hematospermia was 4.6 times per person. Seven of them underwent the embarrassing situation more than 10 times. The initial ages of the symptom ranged from 15 years to 50's and the peak age was 30's. Eighty-three percent of them felt uneasy, but only 34% of them asked medical doctors or nurses for help or advice mainly due to their embarrassment.

Conclusions

A symptom of blood in semen can be frightening, but not so serious and gradually disappears in most cases. It is surprising, however, that there is no or almost no description about hematospermia in any guidelines for hemophilia management including the revised guidelines by WFH, despite such frequent occurrence. Therefore, it is very important to inform caregivers and patients that hematospermia is a common bleeding symptom and that the bleeding can be properly treated based on the data and evidence.

Acknowledgement

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