

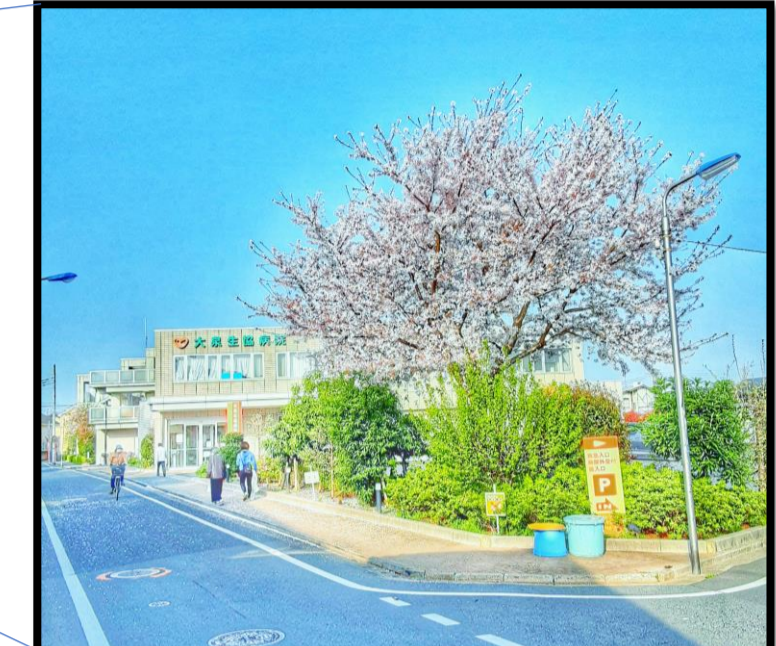
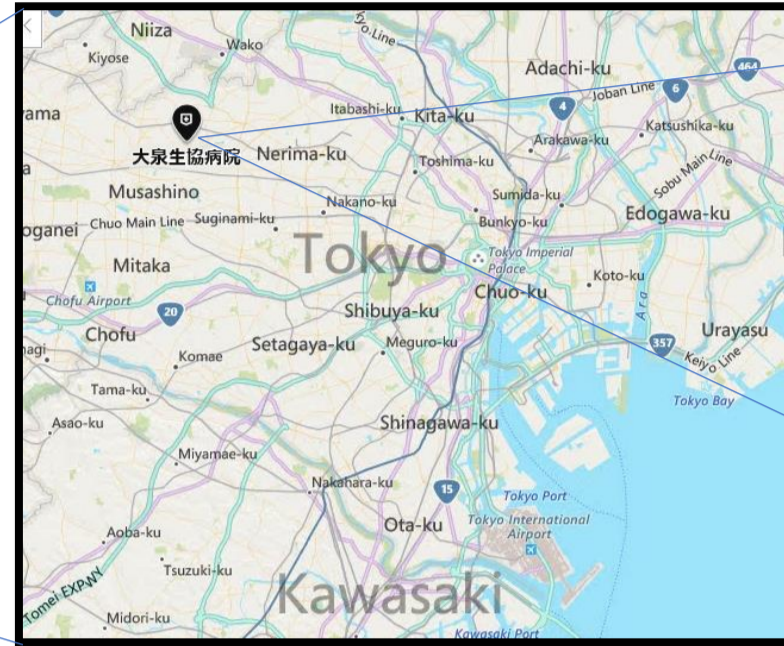
# Regarding end-of-life care for our home visit patients before and after the COVID-19 pandemic.



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**Background:** Japan is facing a high mortality rate, with nearly 70% of people passing away in hospitals. The COVID-19 outbreak has raised concerns about medical collapse and overcrowding of hospital beds. The study aimed to investigate whether there has been a decrease in the proportion of deaths occurring in hospitals and an increase in deaths occurring at home. The study also examined whether end-of-life wishes of patients receiving home visits at the hospital were being fulfilled.



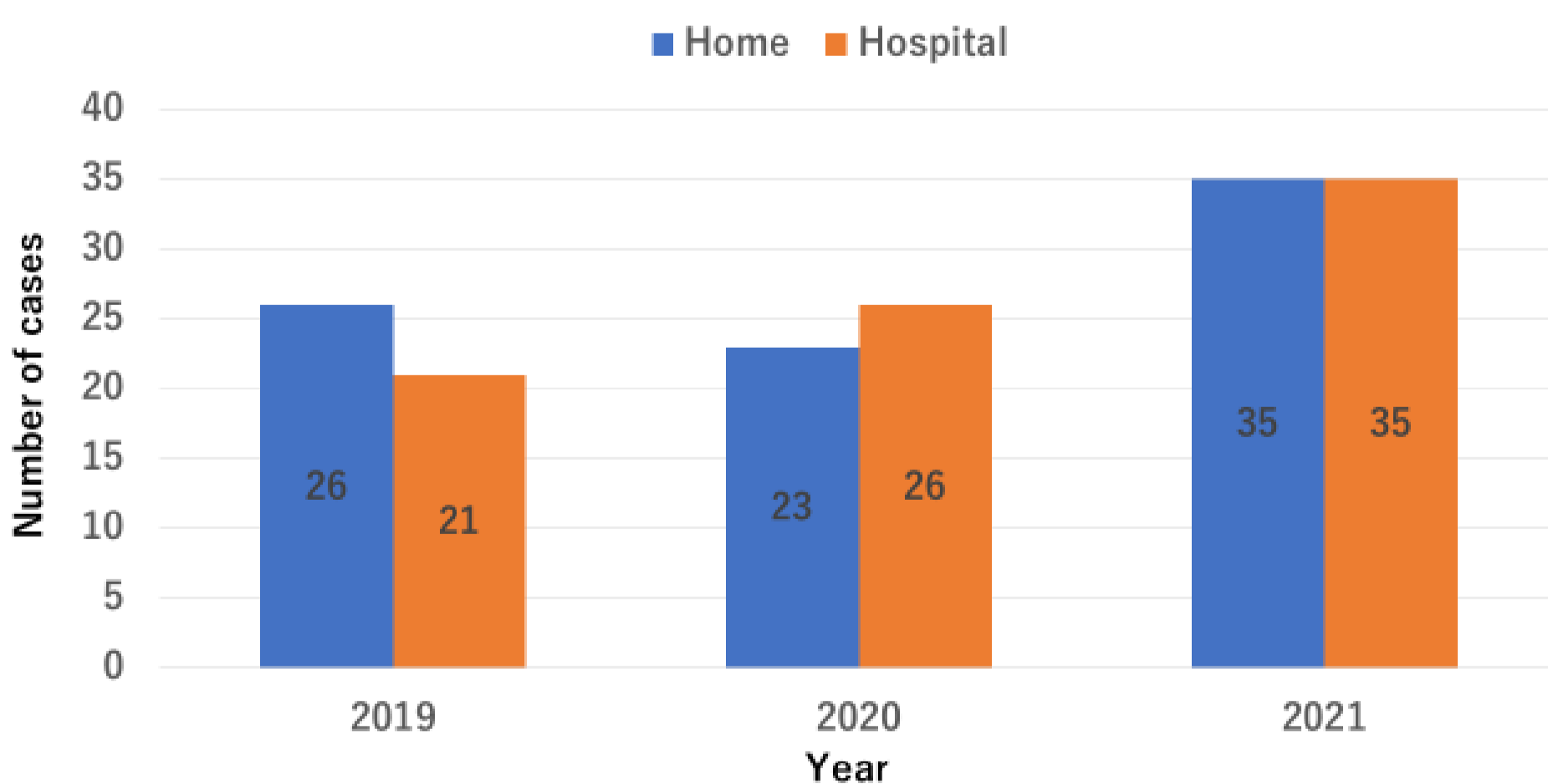
**Our hospital Location**

**Methods:** The study compared and evaluated the location of the last moments of life in patients receiving home visits at the hospital in 2019, 2020, and 2021. The cases that ended with death from January 1st to December 31st in each of the three periods were selected. A total of 166 cases were included, with 47 cases in 2019, 49 cases in 2020, and 70 cases in 2021. The study evaluated whether there was any change in the location of the last moments of life during these three years and investigated whether the location of death matched the patients' end-of-life wishes in cases where the wishes were confirmed in advance.

## Result:

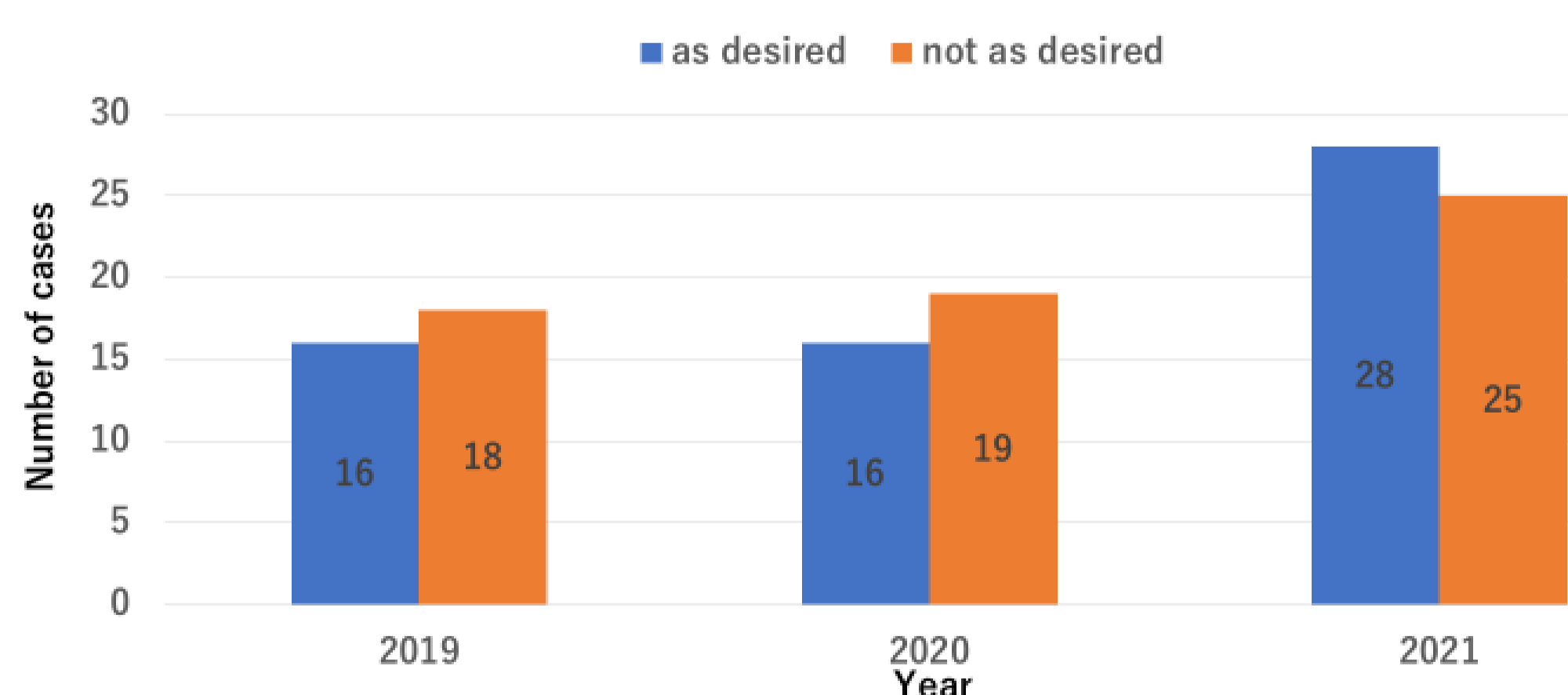
|                   |                           | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  | P value |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| Average age       |                           | 85.47 | 85.88 | 88.54 | p=0.185 |
| Sex               | Male                      | 19    | 21    | 40    | p=0.139 |
|                   | Female                    | 28    | 28    | 30    |         |
| Cause of death    | Malignancy                | 13    | 15    | 14    | p=0.605 |
|                   | Chronic medical condition | 11    | 14    | 20    |         |
|                   | Infection                 | 8     | 12    | 12    |         |
|                   | Old age                   | 12    | 6     | 19    |         |
|                   | Others                    | 3     | 2     | 5     |         |
| Location of death | Home                      | 26    | 23    | 35    | p=0.708 |
|                   | Hospital                  | 21    | 26    | 35    |         |

**The location of death**



$\chi^2(2) = 0.512$ , ns, Cramer's V = 0.065

**Whether the location of death matched the patients' end-of-life wishes**



$\chi^2(2) = 0.512$ , ns, Cramer's V = 0.065

**Conclusion:** The study did not find a significant increase in deaths occurring at home among patients receiving home visits at the hospital during the COVID-19 outbreak. The study also found no significant correlation between the year of death and the location of death matching the patients' end-of-life wishes. The study results can be used to inform future policies and practices related to end-of-life care in Japan.

**Conflict of Interest (COI) of the Principal Presenter :** No potential COI to disclose