



Background

- Many breast cancer patients suffer hair loss due to chemotherapy.
- Not only scalp hair loss, but also eyebrow loss and eyelash loss are traumatic for patients.
- There has been little research in this field until now.
- To clarify the actual situation concerning appearance issues in breast cancer patients who received adjuvant chemotherapy, we conducted a questionnaire survey.

Methods

- Disease-free breast cancer patients who have received adjuvant chemotherapy containing anthracycline and/or taxane within 5 years were recruited at 47 hospitals or clinics in Japan from April to October 2013.
- The patients participating in this survey completed a 65-question questionnaire concerning appearance issues (48) and their perception of physical and non-physical side effects (17).
- This study was approved by the ethics committee of each institution.

Patients

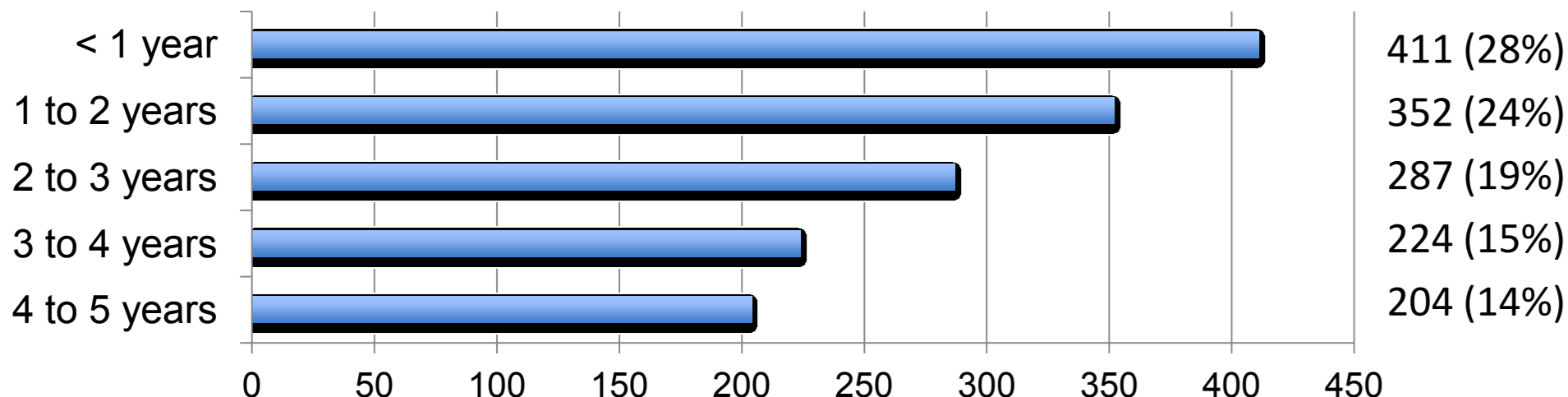
1511 patients returned the questionnaire

33 patients were ineligible

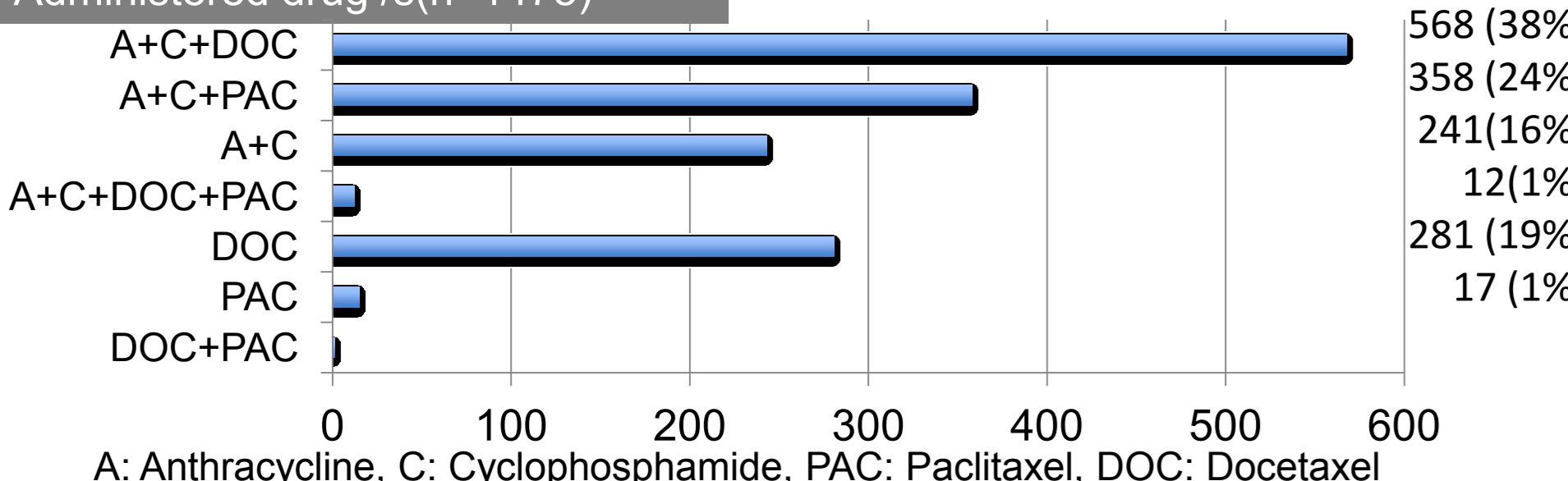
The survey results of 1478 patients were analyzed

- The mean age of the 1478 patients was 54.7 years (+10.4, range 17-79)

Time after completing chemotherapy (n=1478)

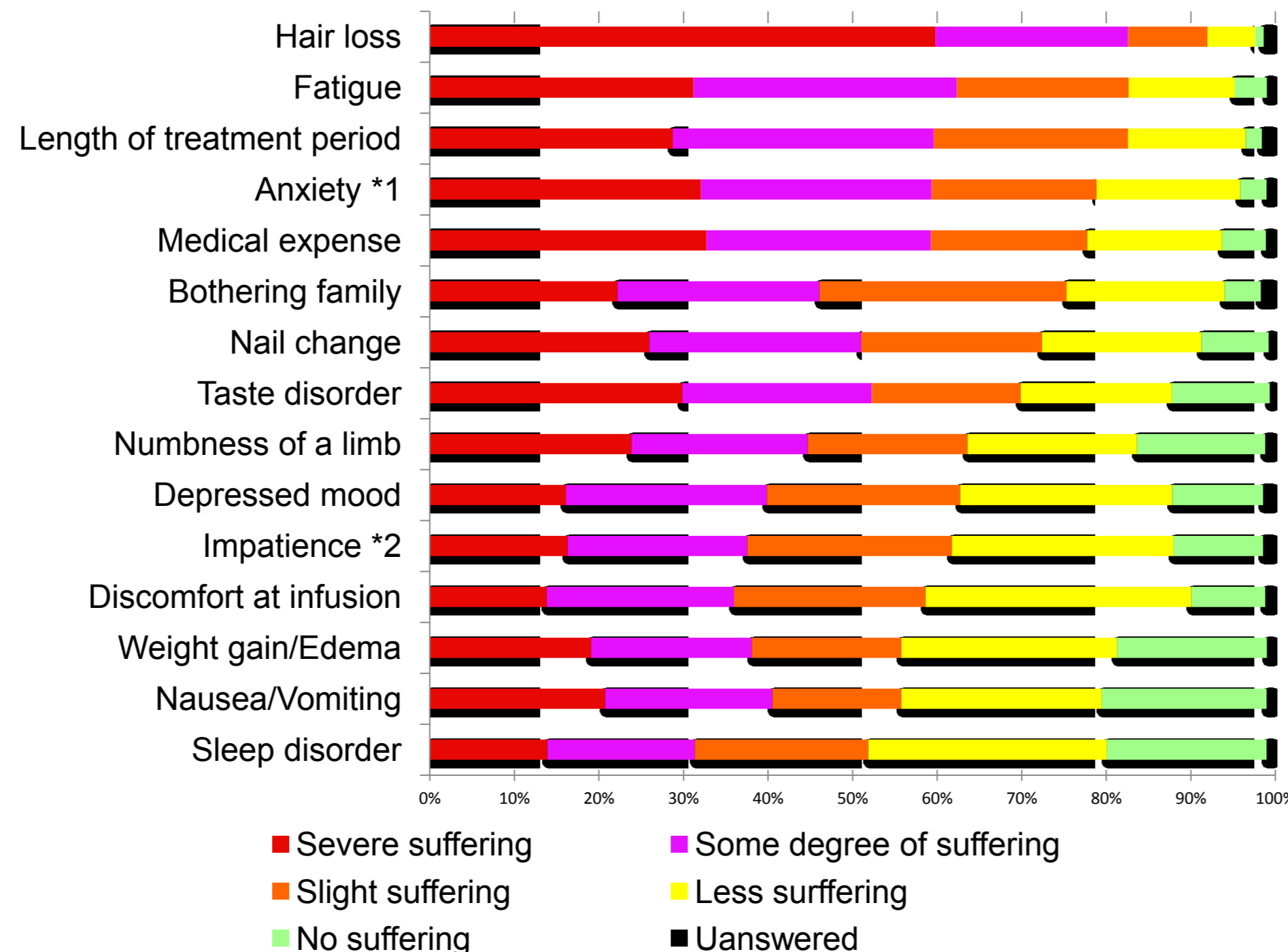


Administered drug /s(n=1478)



Results

Q: How severe was the suffering you experienced during chemotherapy?

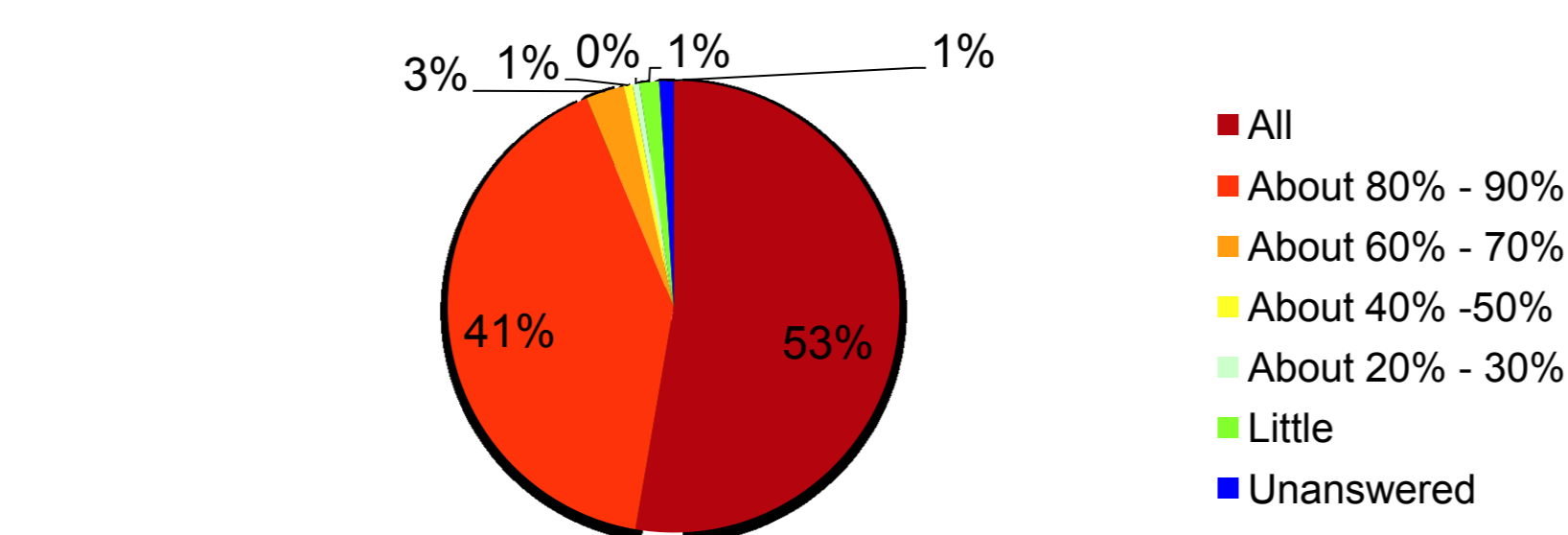


*1: Anxiety about the disease or treatment
*2: Impatience caused by not being able to do a job or housework

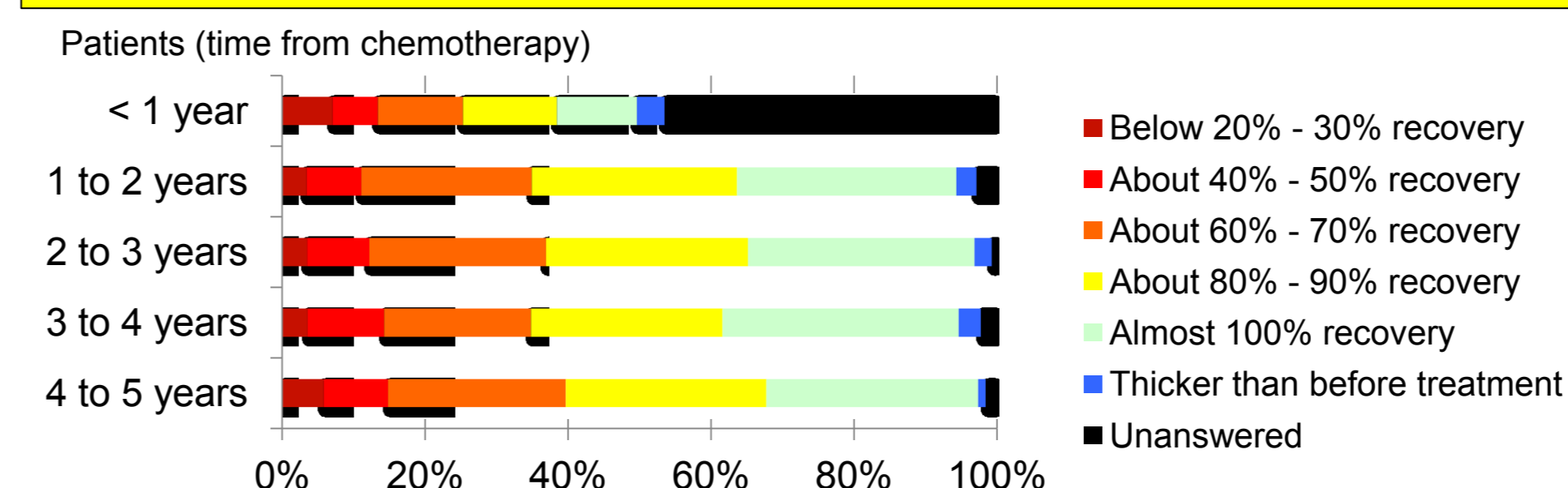
Q: Did you experience hair loss?

Yes 1455 (98.4%) No 3 (0.2%)
Cannot remember 11(0.7%) Unanswered 9 (0.6%)

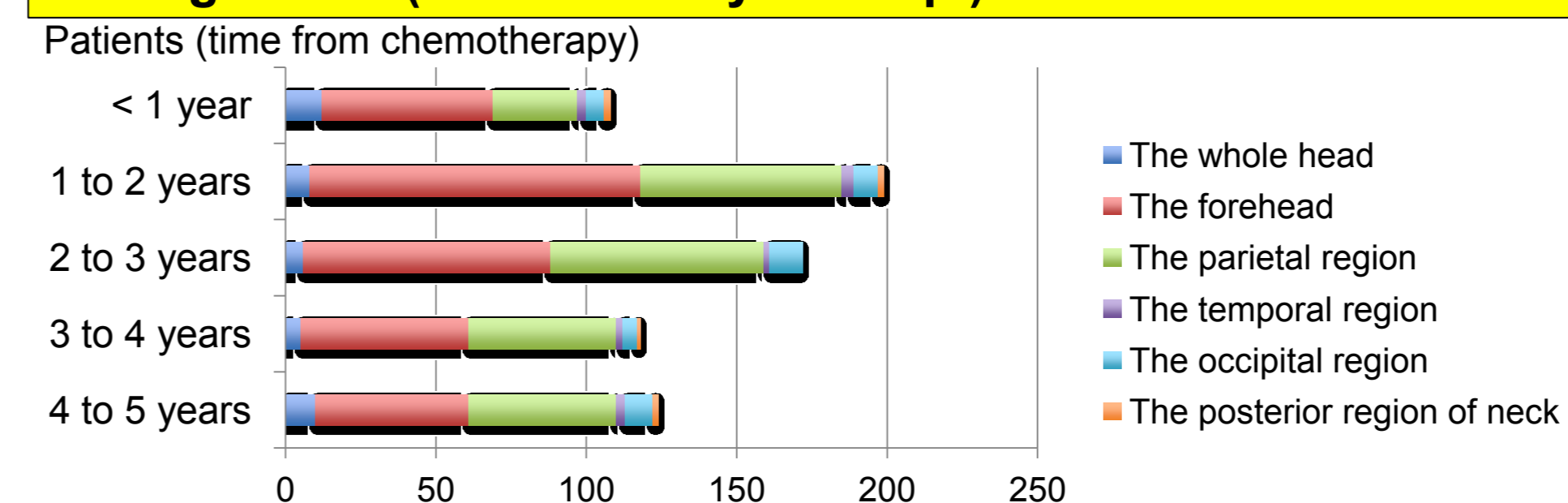
Q: How much of your scalp hair seemed to fall out?



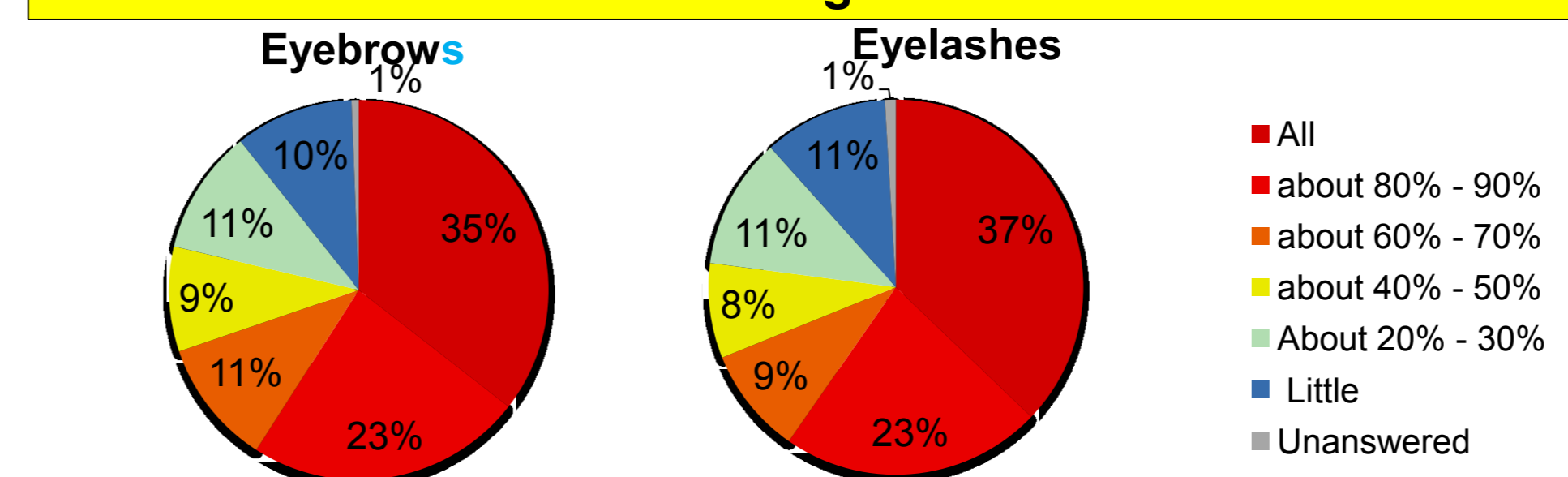
Q: How thick is your scalp hair at present compared to before the treatment?



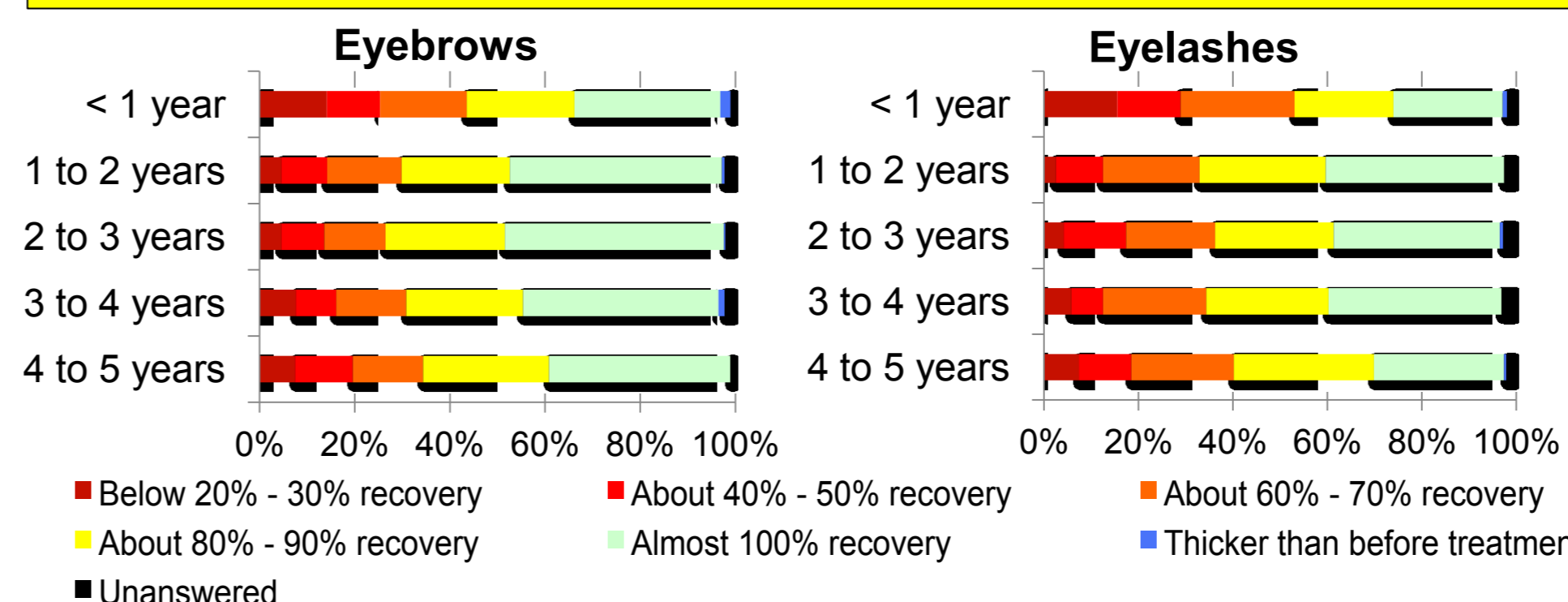
Q: Are there currently any parts of your head where hair has not regrown? (Answers may overlap.)



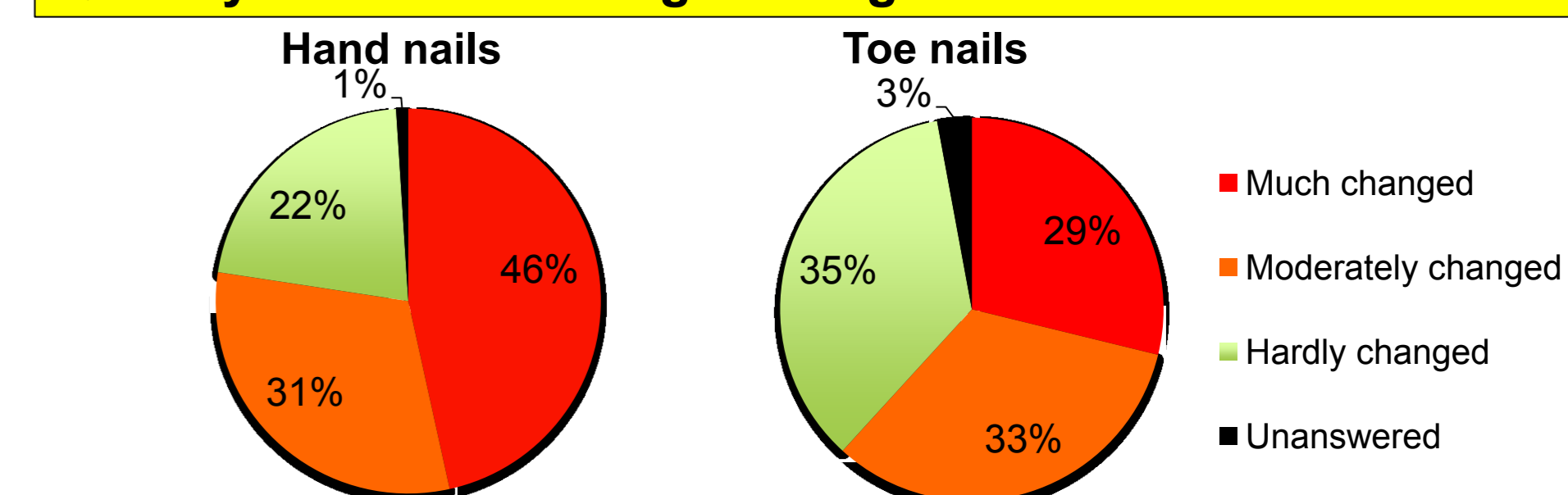
Q: How much of the hair of your eyebrows and eyelashes seemed to have fallen out during treatment?



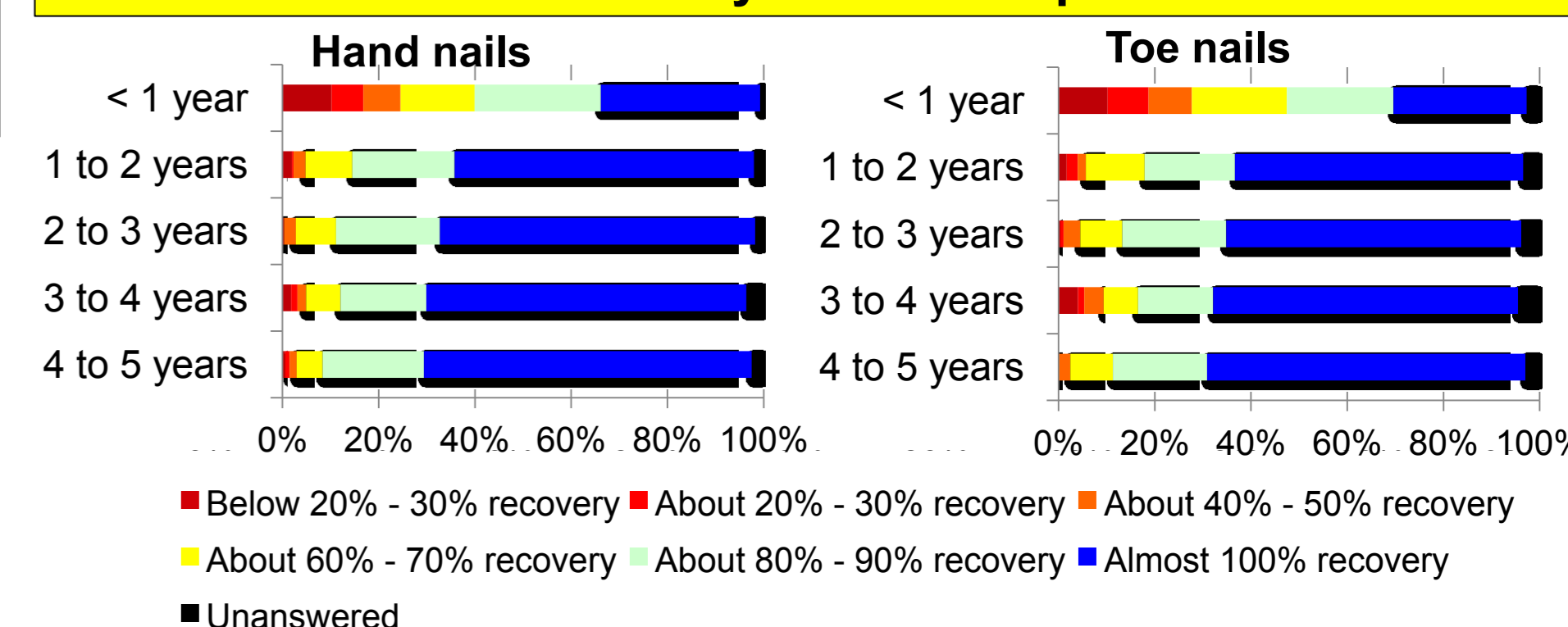
Q: How thick are your eyebrows and eyelashes at present?



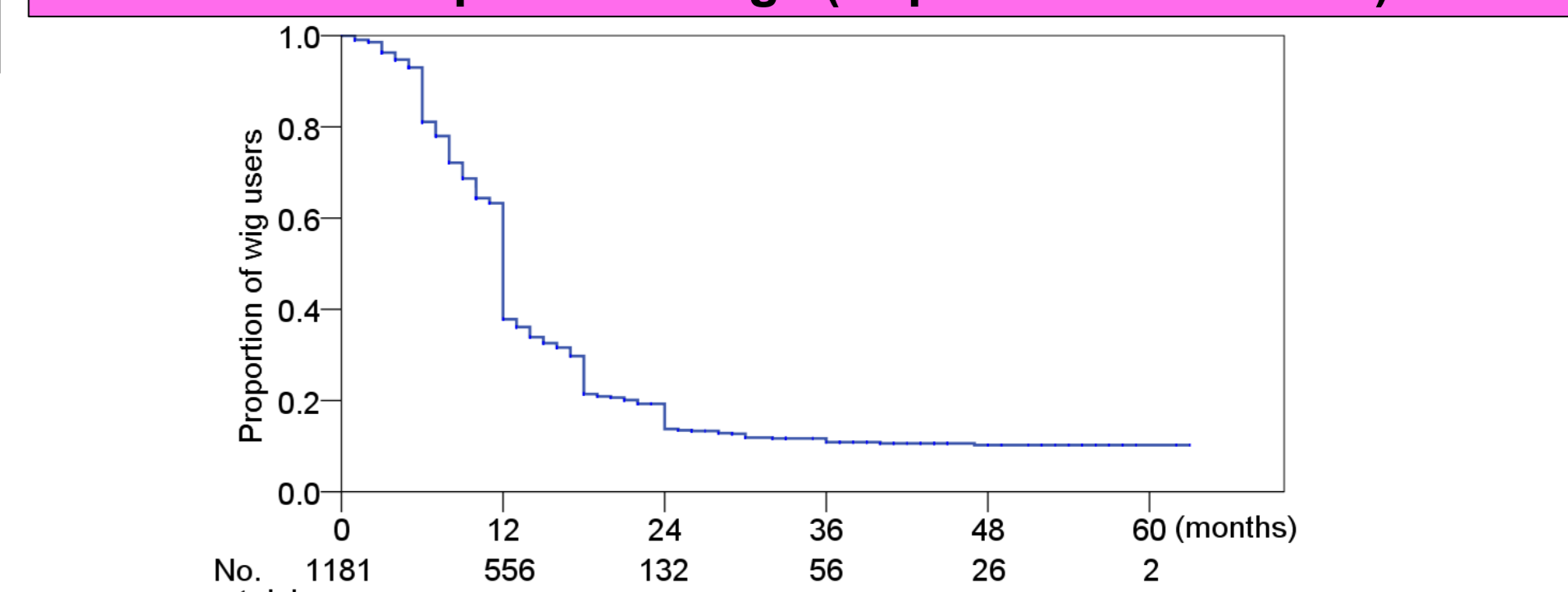
Q: Did your "nails" change during treatment?



Q: What is the condition of your nails at present?



The use period of wigs (Kaplan-Meier method)



Conclusion

The results of our survey demonstrated the outline of hair loss and appearance issues in breast cancer patients who underwent chemotherapy. Hair loss is the most distressing and occasionally the most long-lasting side effect. These facts suggested the need for long-term and careful support of these patients.

Acknowledgement

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 - To the investigators at the 47 institutions and CSPOR.
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