

Patients' recognition of long-term chemotherapy-related changes in their hair and differences among drugs

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Introduction

Among adverse reactions to chemotherapy, alopecia markedly reduces patient QOL.

Objective

We conducted a questionnaire survey of breast cancer patients who had received chemotherapy in Japan, and examined long-term chemotherapy-related changes in their hair and differences among drugs.

Methods

- A questionnaire was distributed to Japanese patients between April and October 2013 who met the inclusion criteria.
- The questions focused on patients' appearance-related issues associated with chemotherapy.
- Disease-free patients who had received adjuvant or neoadjuvant chemotherapy containing anthracycline (A) and/or taxanes (paclitaxel: P, docetaxel: D) within the last 5 years were eligible.
- This study was approved by all relevant institutional Ethical Review Boards.

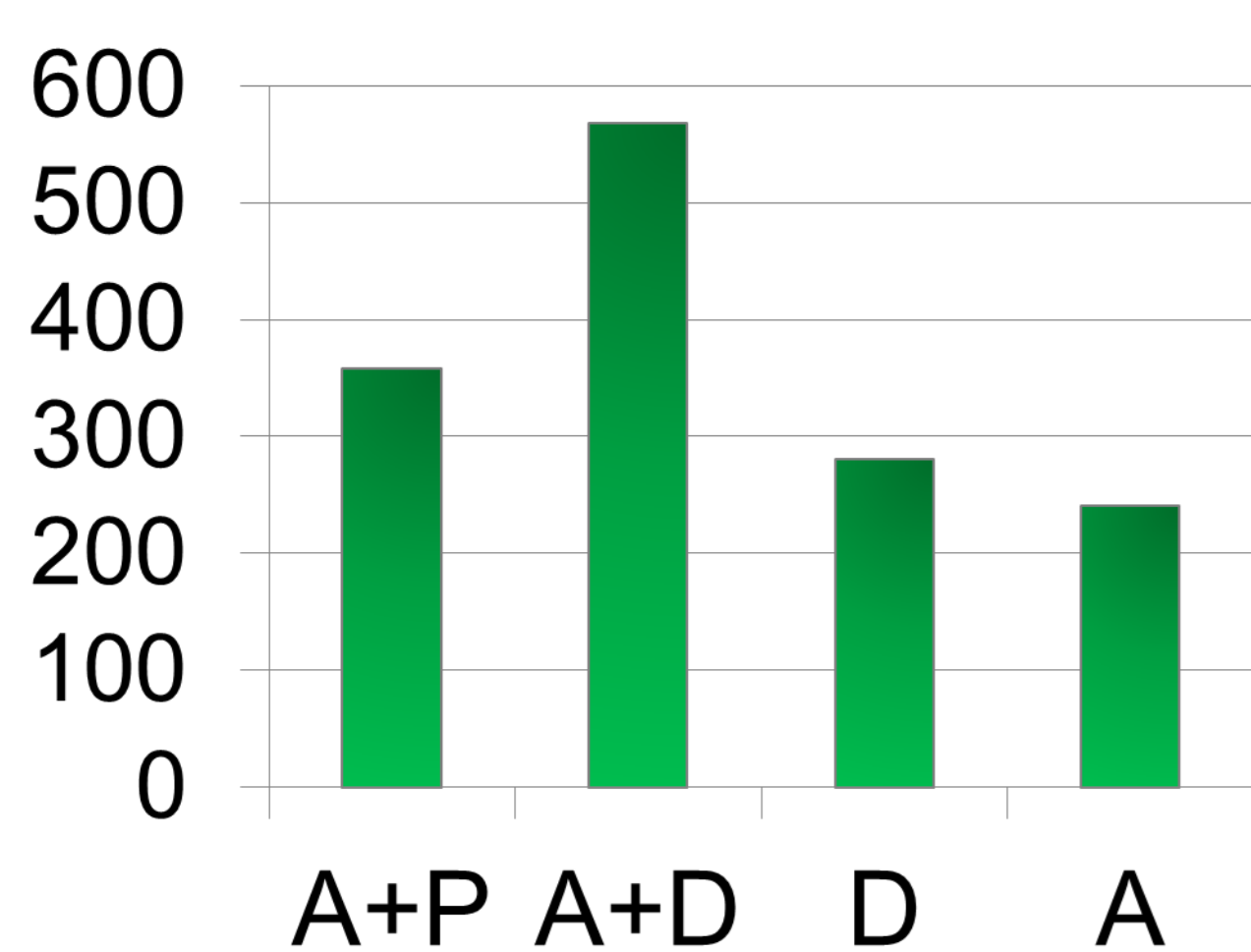
1511 patients returned the questionnaire

66 patients were ineligible.

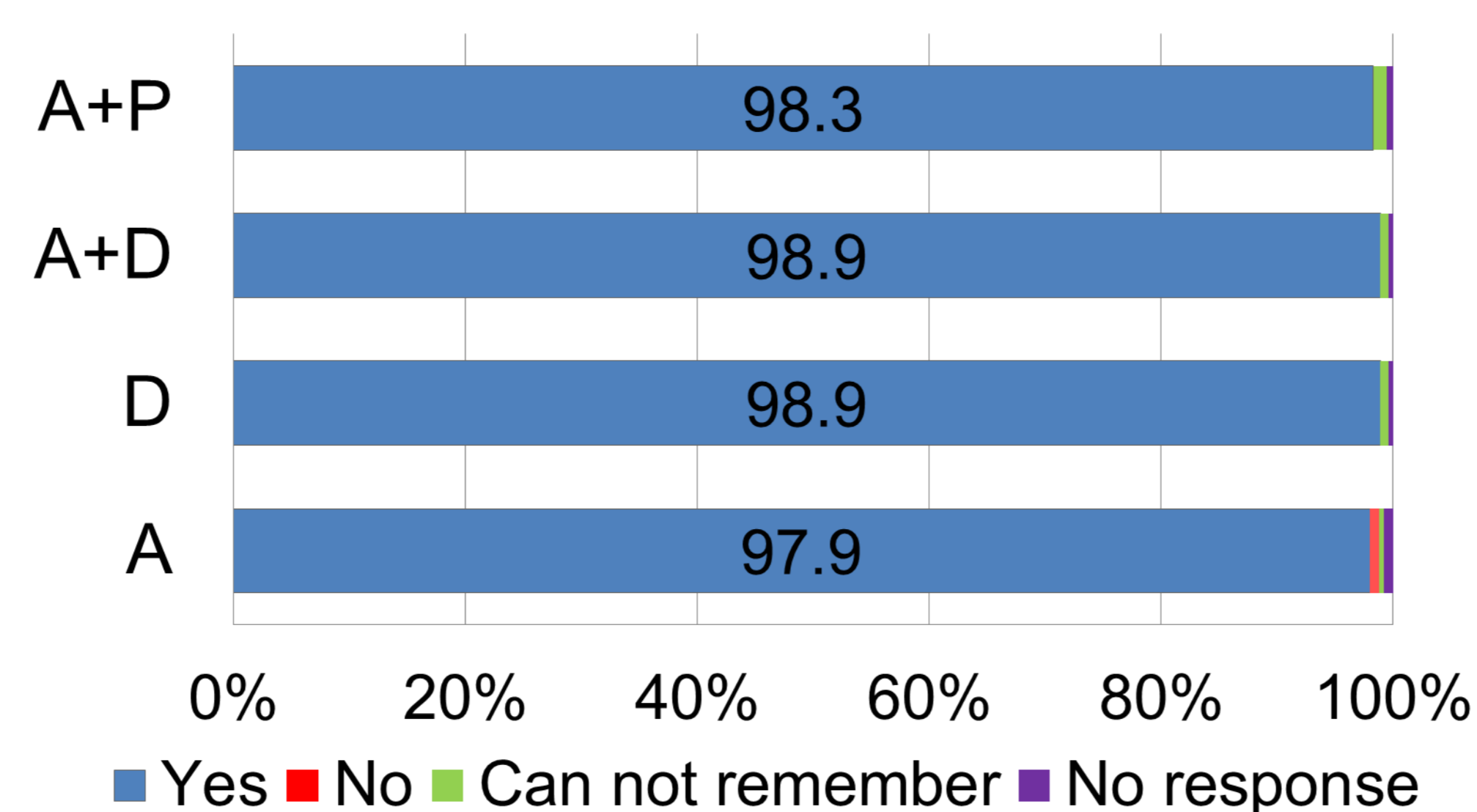
Results from 1445 patients were analyzed

Results

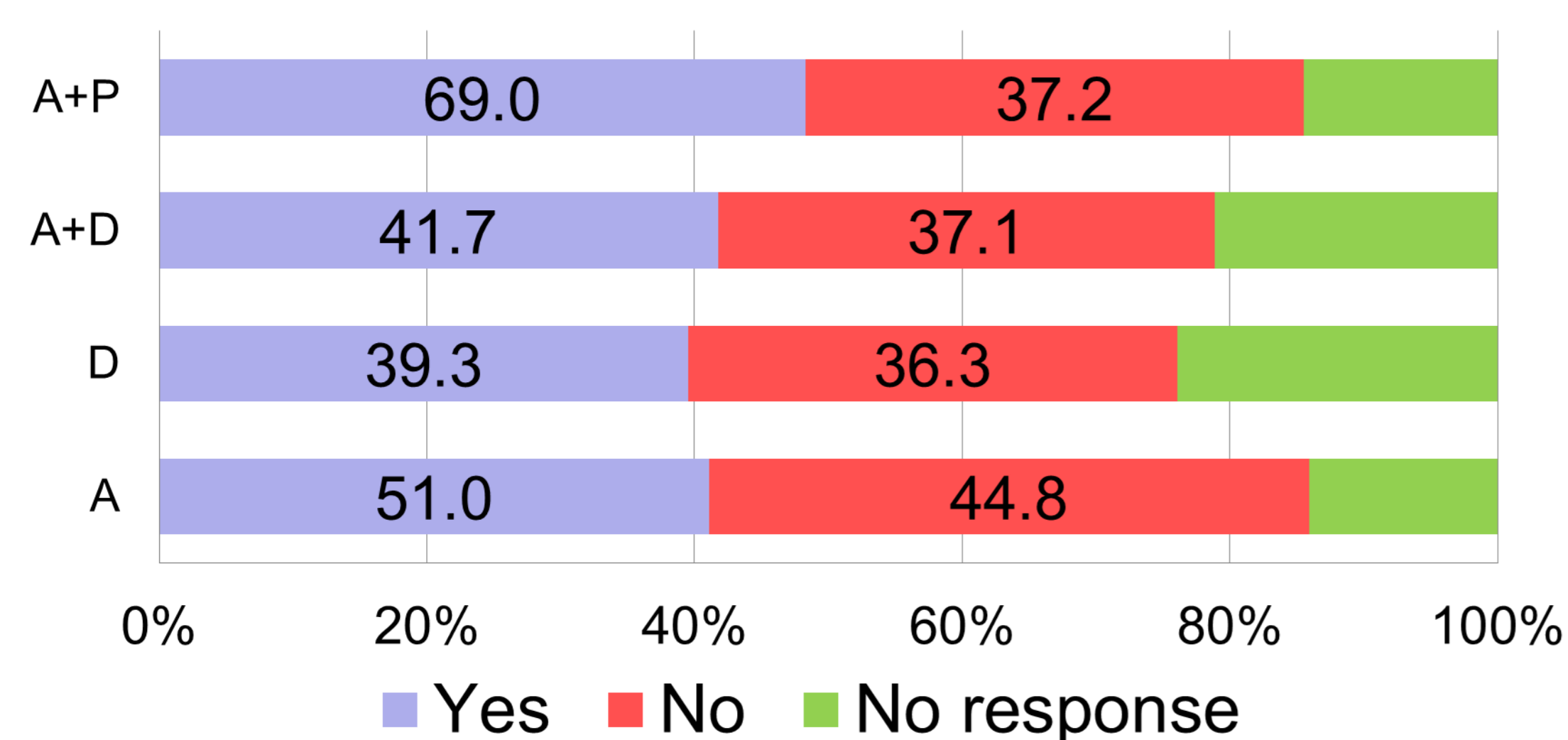
Patient number by chemotherapy regimen



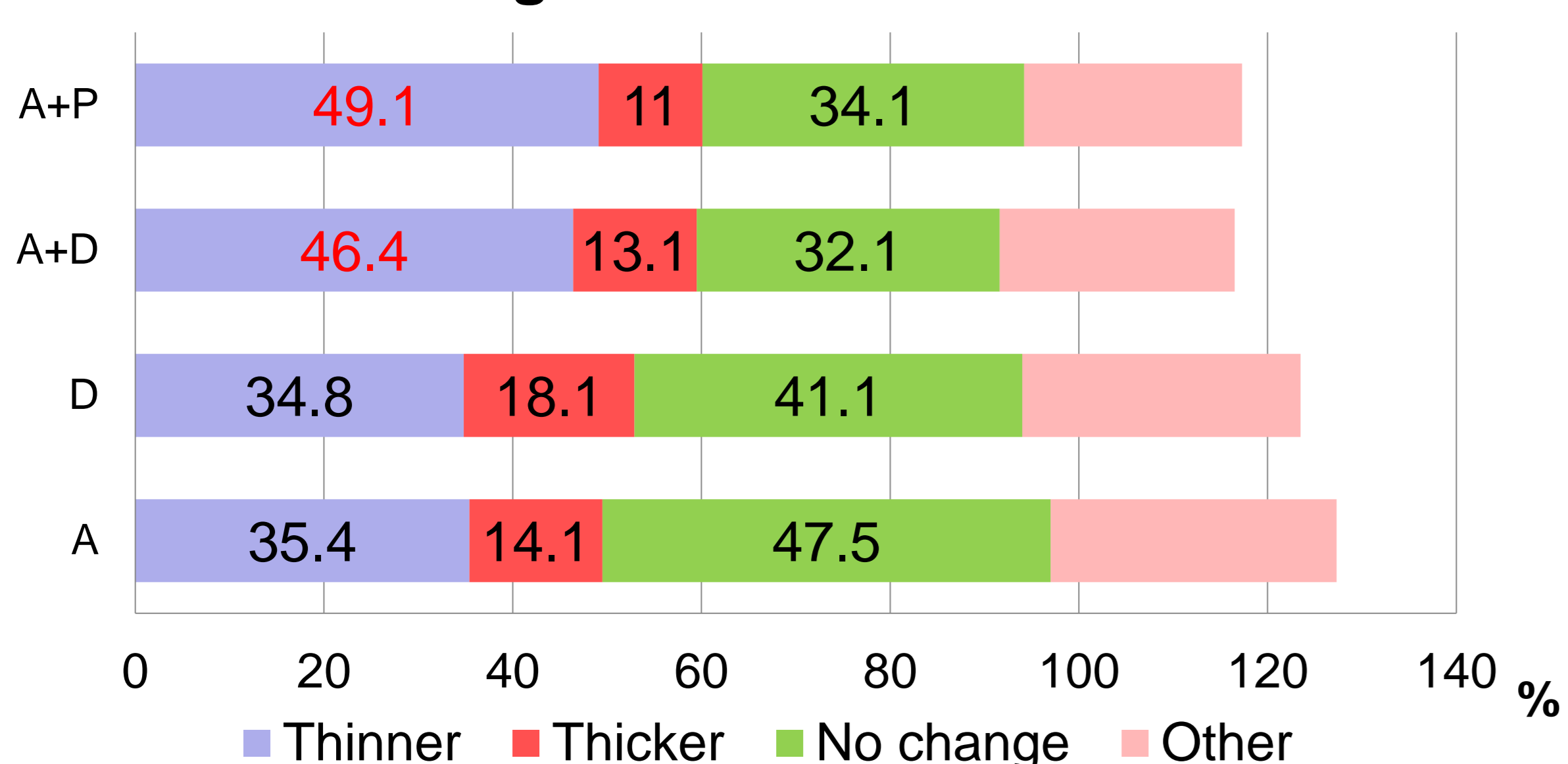
Incidence of scalp hair loss during chemotherapy



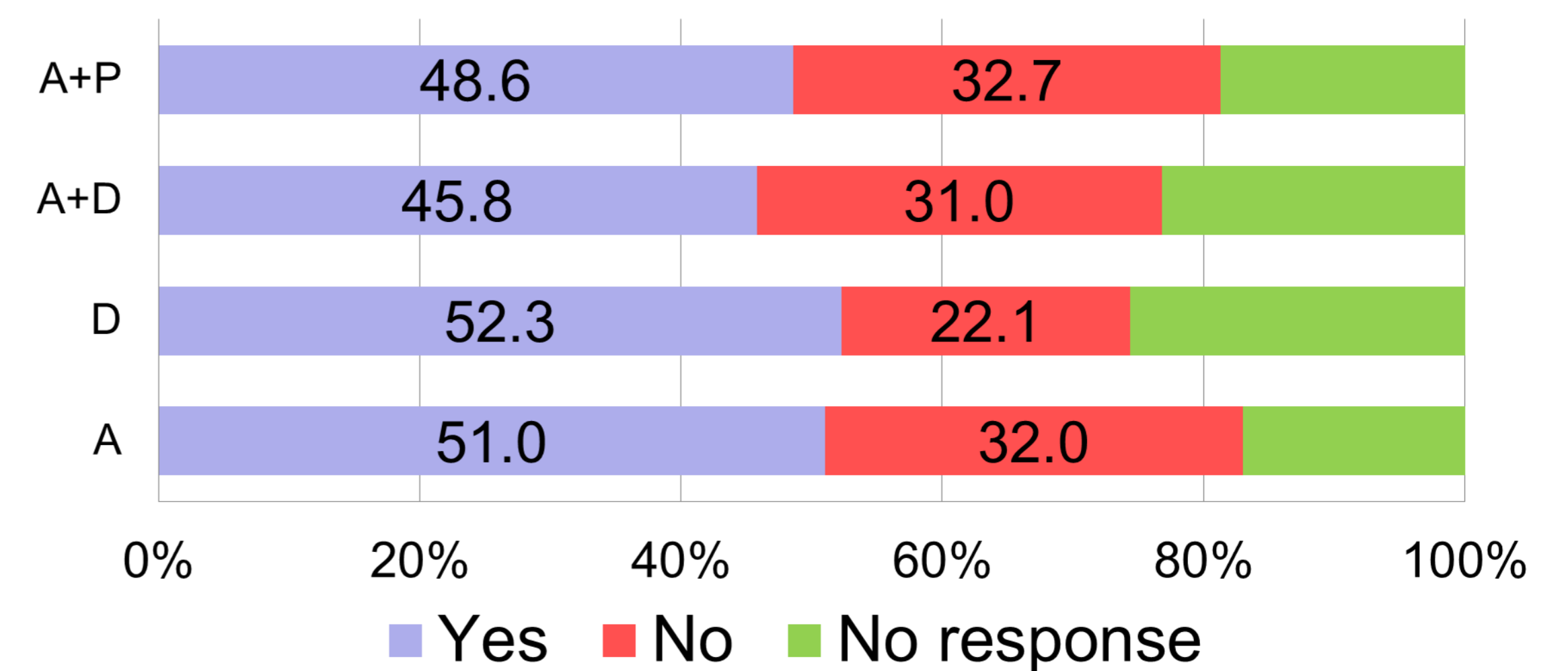
Incidences of hair thickness changes more than 6 months after regrowth of hair



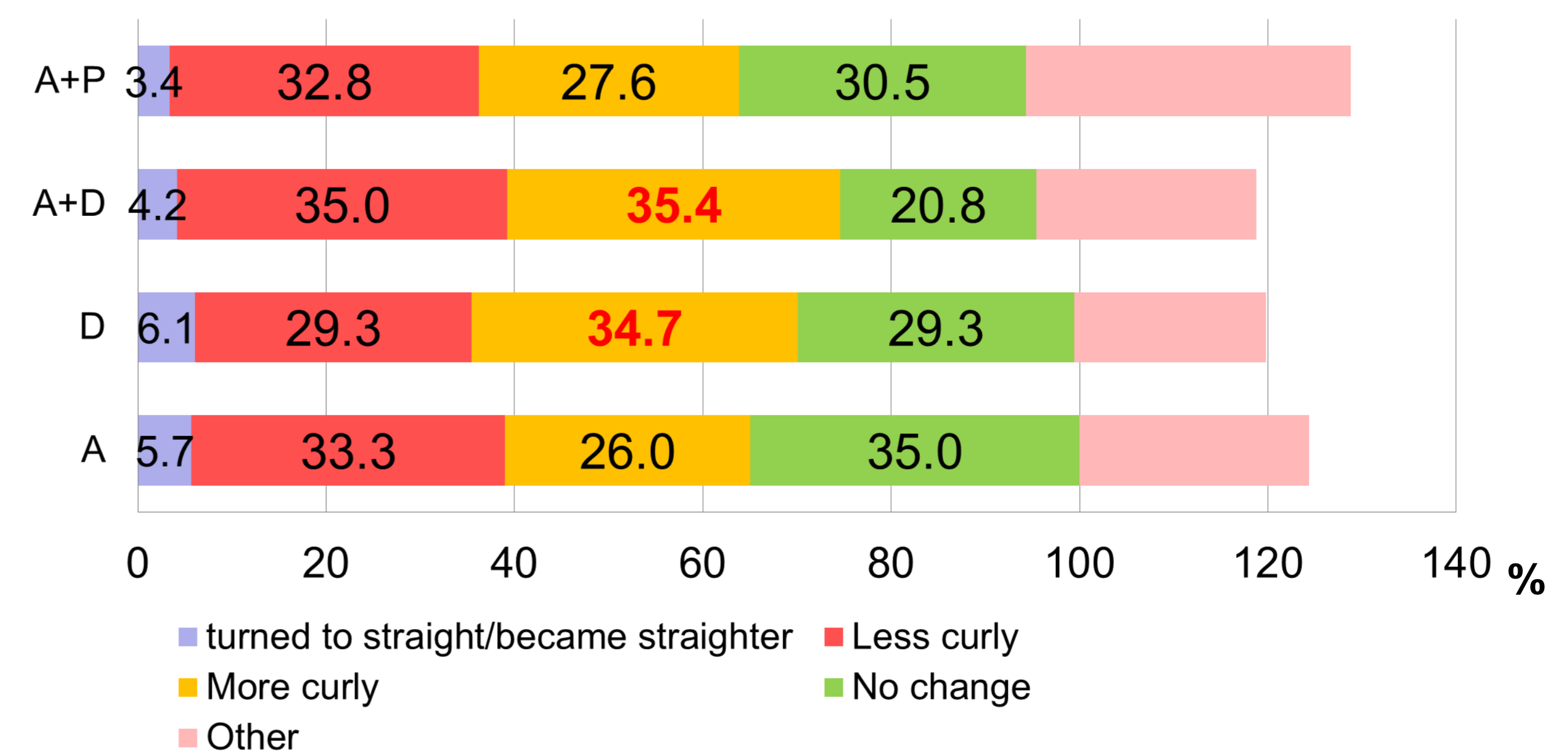
~Details of changes in hair thickness~ (multiple responses)



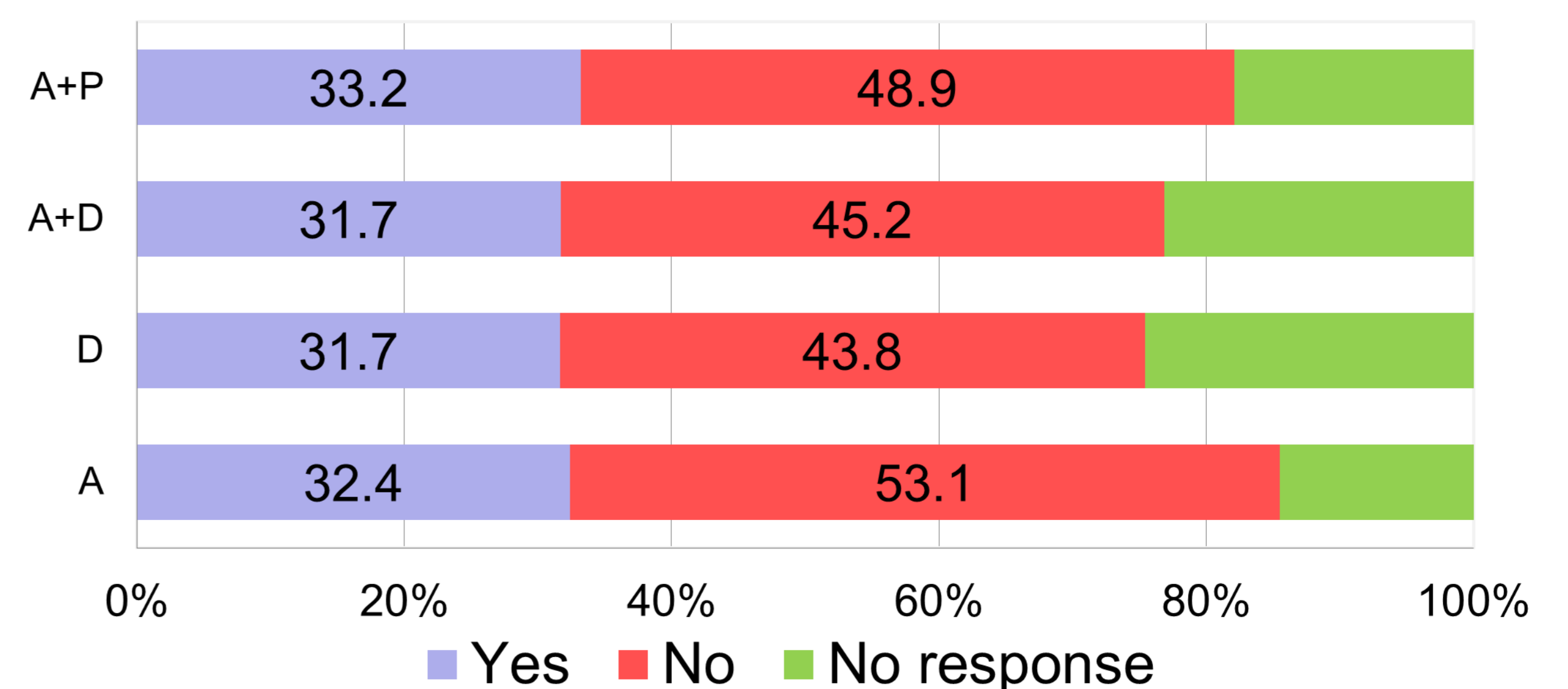
Incidences of hair quality changes more than 6 months after regrowth of hair



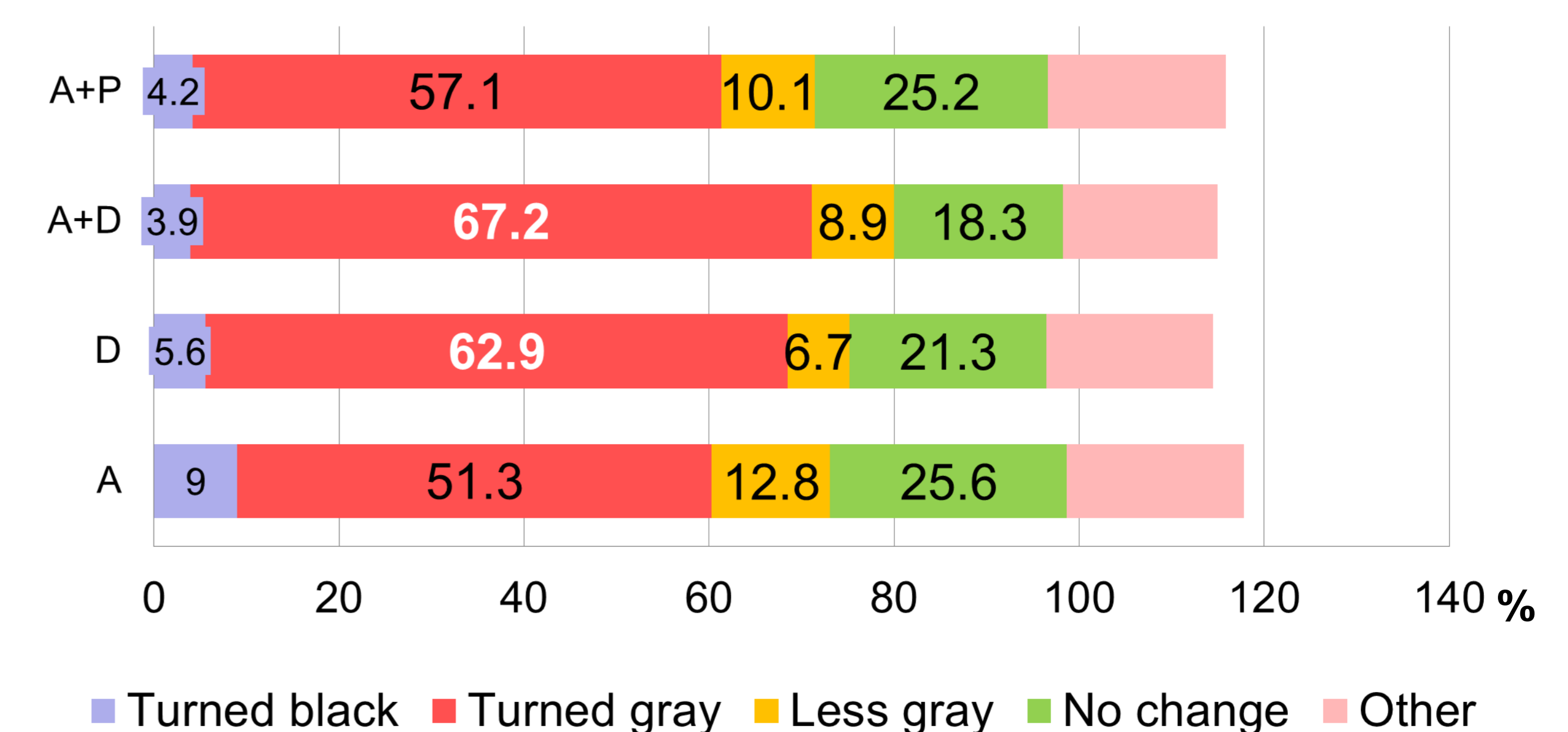
~Details of changes in hair quality~ (multiple responses)



Incidences of hair color changes more than 6 months after regrowth of hair



~Details of changes in hair color~ (multiple responses)



Conclusions

- Percentages with changes in hair thickness (thinner) were higher in groups receiving combination therapy.
- Percentages with changes to curly hair and/or gray hair were slightly higher in those receiving regimens with docetaxel.
- Based on these results, it may be necessary to explain regimen-specific adverse reactions to patients.

Acknowledgement

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