



Comparison in Education and Management of the Caries Disease between two Universities

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Background

Caries is the world's most common illness and considered as a multifactorial disease. By performing Caries Risk Assessment (CRA) it is possible to identify high risk patients. CRA is recommended to be performed regularly both in Sweden and Japan, but seems less commonly executed in the latter. Prevention is a critical factor in the treatment of the caries. Important factors to take into consideration are diet, fluoride administration and antimicrobial products. The dental education is five years in Sweden and six years in Japan. Since cariology and management of the caries disease is an important part in dentistry and dental education, the purpose of this study was to compare the educational management of the caries disease between the University of Gothenburg and Tohoku University of Sendai.

Purpose

Evaluation of the educational management of caries disease between the University of Gothenburg and Tohoku University of Sendai.

Fig 1. "Do you consider caries risk assessment is an important tool for caries diagnostics and treatment?"

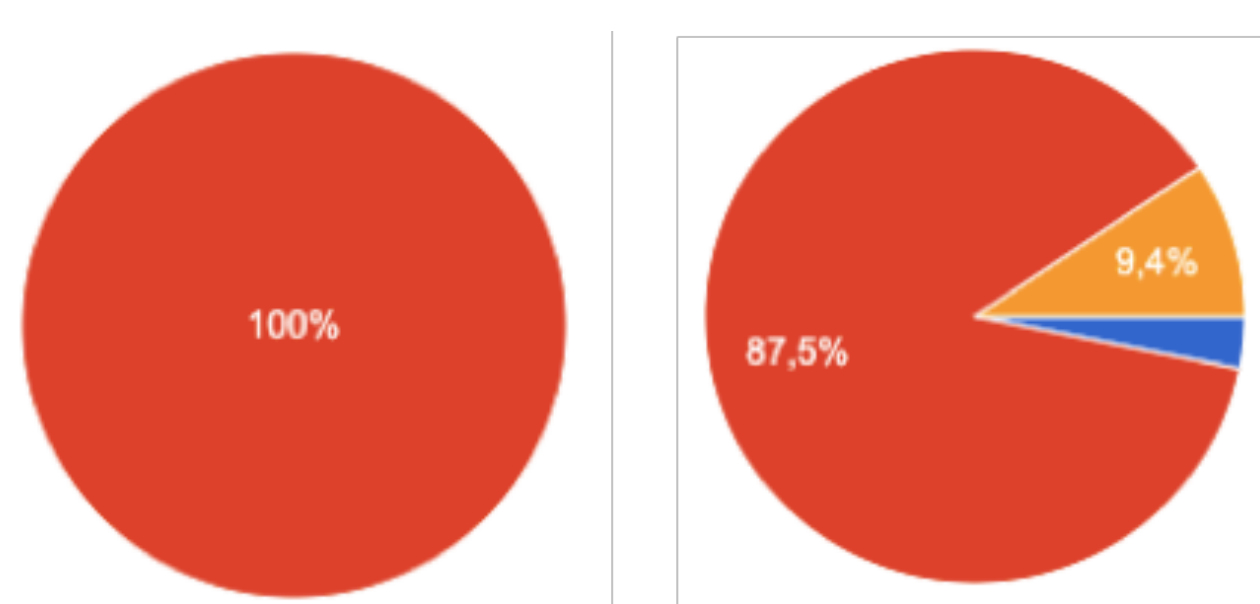
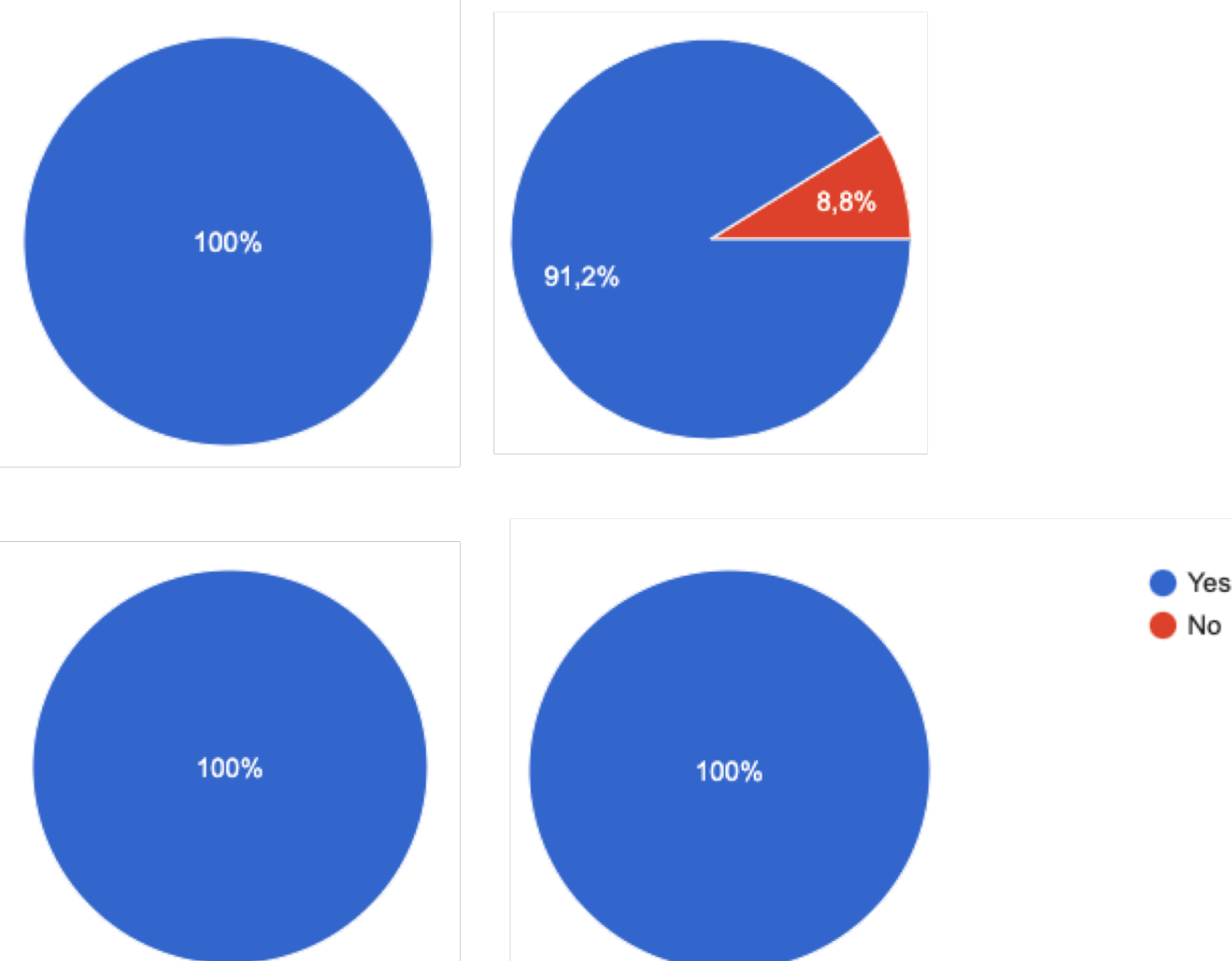
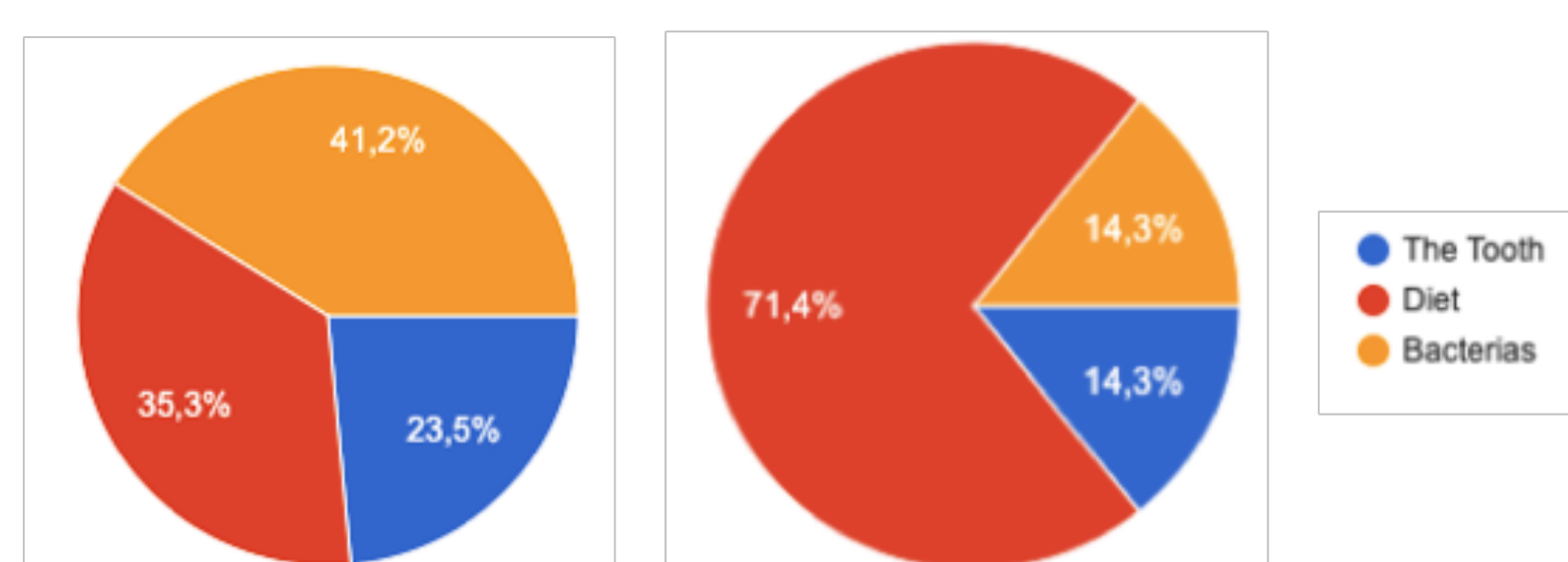


Fig 2. The most important factor consider for caries risk assessment.



Result

The figures 1-4 shows representative results from the questionnaire. Both universities answered that CRA, prevention, restricted sugar intake and diet is important. The two universities would, however, perform CRA on different patient groups and also recommend different base prophylaxis and fluoride regime. 100% of the Swedish teachers considered their cariological education sufficient for everyday practice, but only 33% of the Japanese teachers considered their cariological education sufficient. Among the students, the distribution of answers was 87% (Sweden) vs 33% (Japan) respectively. The vast majority of the respondents wanted more practical training for the students.

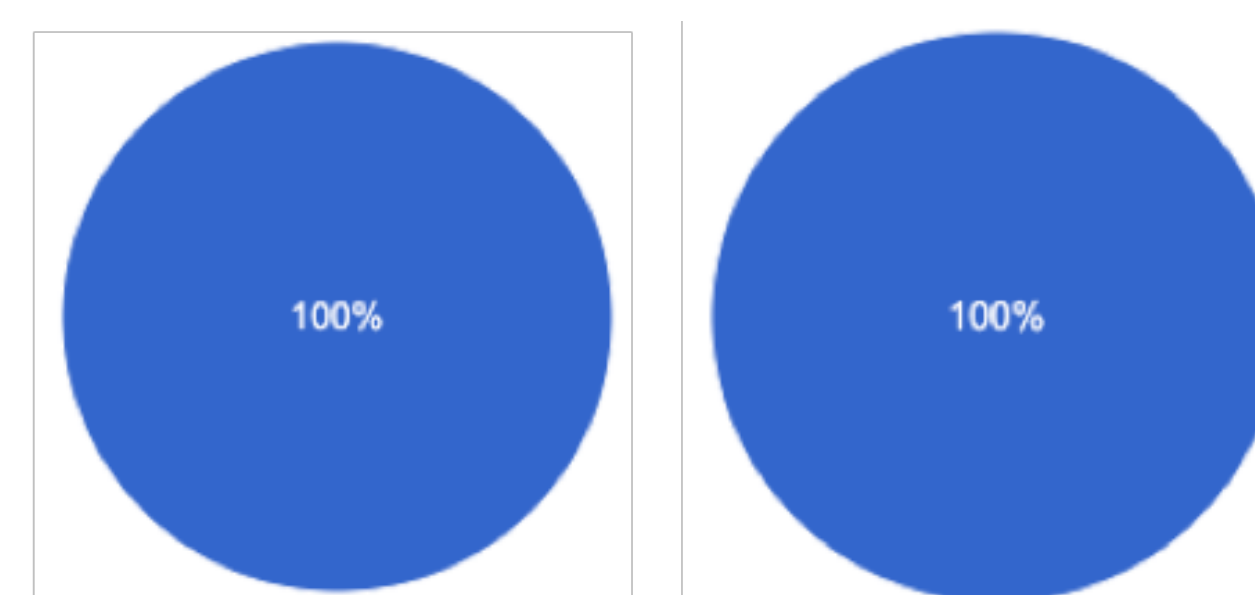


Fig 3. The basic prophylaxis recommended to patients?

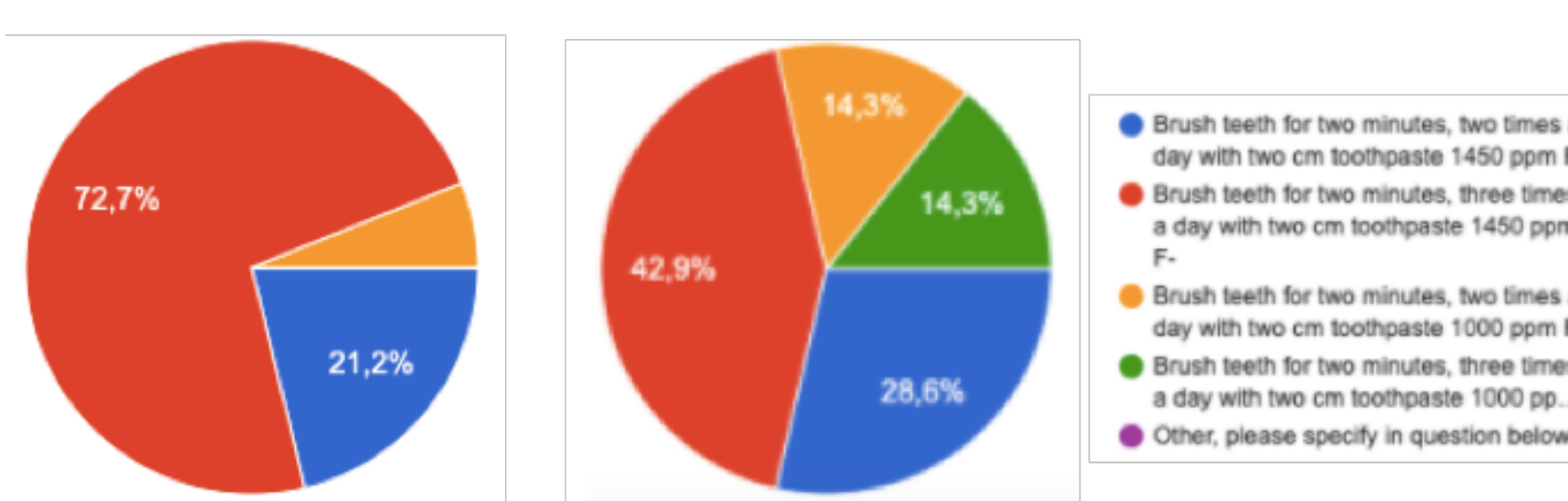
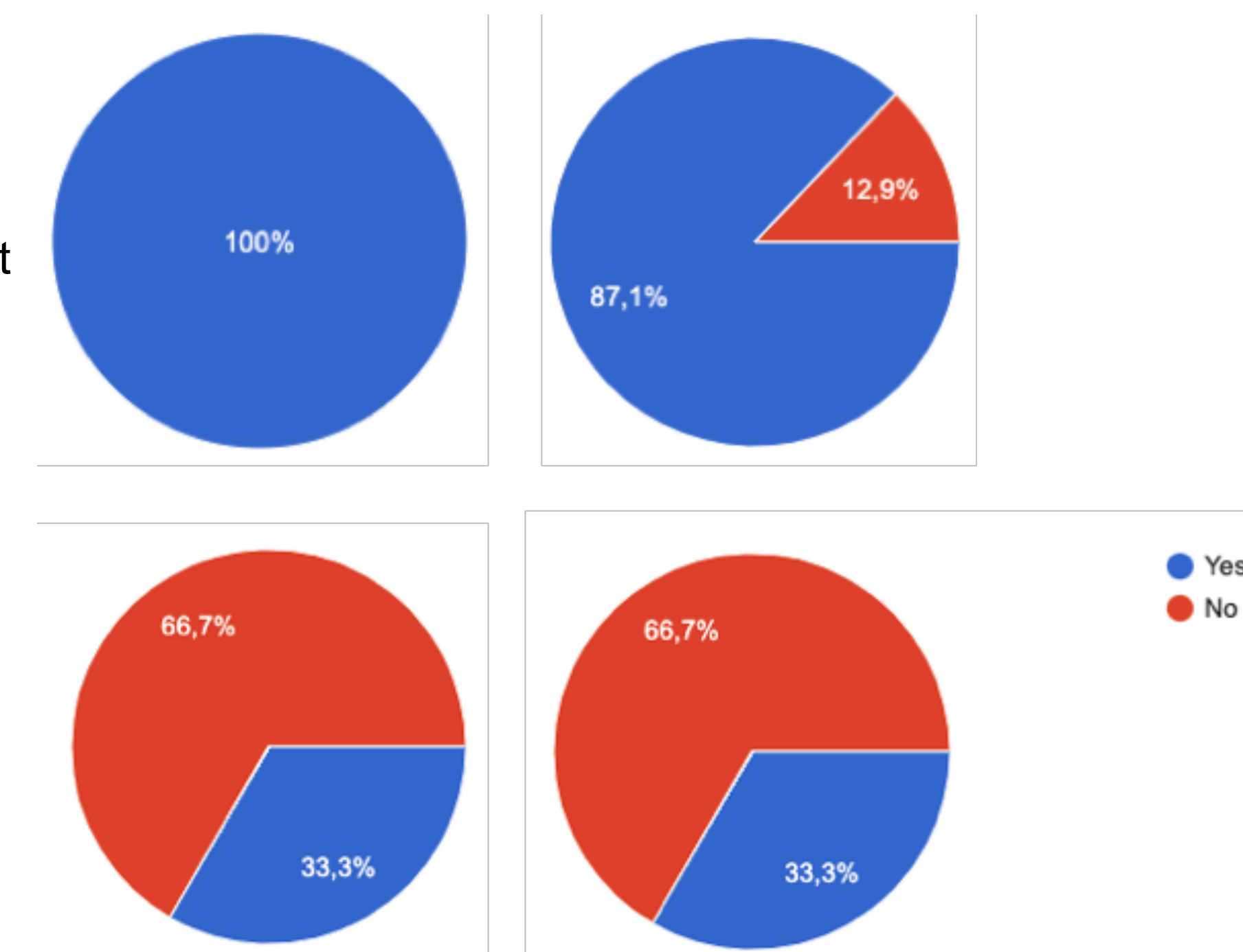


Fig 4. The educations sufficiency for caries prevention and treatment for daily practice.



Conclusion

CRA was considered important at both universities but the differences in caries management was evident. More practical training was emphasized. In general, Swedish teachers and students were more pleased with the caries education than the Japanese respondents.

Method

A validated questionnaire was developed focused on caries prevention, risk assessment and caries education and sent to the final year dental students, researchers/teachers and The Head of Cariology/The Head of Division for International Collaborative and Innovative Dentistry from each university. The answers were summarized and analysed.

Take home message

CRA is important. Its management could be facilitated by evidence based guidelines. The practical and theoretical training in Cariology seem required.