

Authors' reply to: Current Status and Challenges of the Dissemination of Telepsychiatry in Japan

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Table of Contents

Original Manuscript.....	4
---------------------------------	----------

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Abstract

Not applicable

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To the Editor:

We thank the authors of the Letter to the Editor for the knowledgeable comments on our study. Our results suggest that telemedicine is not widely used in the field of psychiatry and psychosomatic medicine, but is desired by the patient population receiving medical care. Deregulation of the restriction and setting higher reimbursement rates are considered important, but evidence is needed for this to happen. We believe that the results recently presented by Dr. Kishimoto and his colleagues [1] are very important, and the fact that they show that telemedicine in this area is not inferior to face-to-face care is good information not only for healthcare providers and the patient population, but also for government agencies as a resource for developing policy. This kind of evidence needs to be accumulated, and more research on telemedicine is needed in the future.

[1] Kishimoto T, Kinoshita S, Kitazawa M, et al. Live two-way video versus face-to-face treatment for depression, anxiety, and obsessive-compulsive disorder: A 24-week randomized controlled trial. *Psychiatry Clin Neurosci*. 2024;78(4):220-228. [doi:10.1111/pcn.13618]