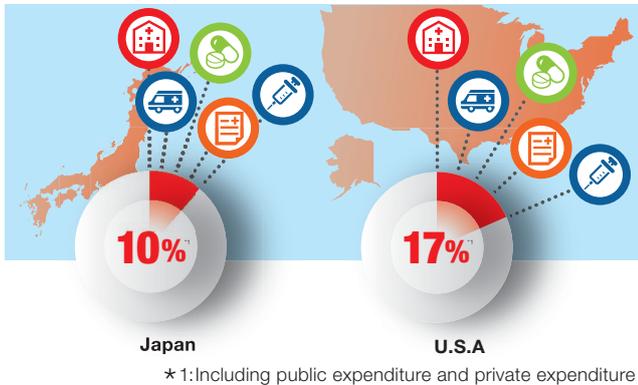




■ Healthcare Investment: Japan vs US



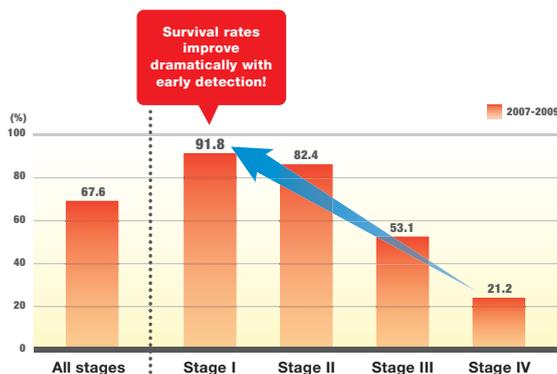
But There's Still Room for Improvement

However, despite the success of mass health screening, the system isn't perfect. One area that could be improved is cancer screening. In 2016, only around 40% to 50% of men and around 30% to 40% of women underwent a test to detect common cancers², and these rates are actually *lower* than in other countries³.

Why? The reasons are unclear, but factors such as time, additional expense, lack of a feeling of urgency, and simple fear of learning the result probably contribute⁴.

Detecting cancer at an early stage dramatically increases survival over five years. This is not just important for the individual—it's important for all of society. The National Cancer Center Japan estimates that 300,000 lives are lost to cancer each year in Japan—that's 300,000 families affected by the death of a loved one⁵. And in terms of productivity, it is estimated that 9.5 trillion yen (almost 85 billion US dollars) is lost to medical leave related to cancer⁶.

■ 5 years Survival Rates for Clinical Stages I to IV



²"Survival Statistics" of the Japanese Association of Clinical Cancer Centers <https://kapweb.chiba-cancer-registry.org/>

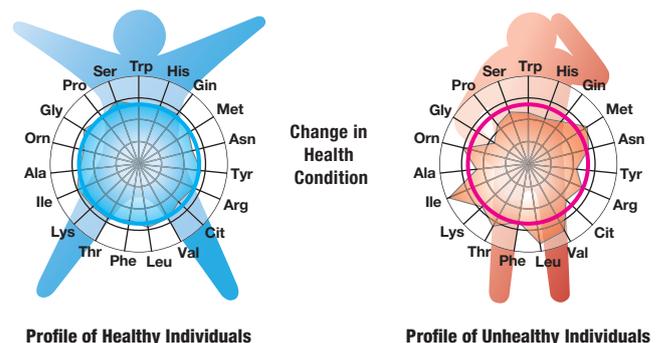
AminoIndex™ Cancer Screening: Filling an Unmet Need

This is the precise reason why Ajinomoto Co., Inc. ("Ajinomoto Co.") developed the *AminoIndex™ Cancer Screening (AICS™)*. Due to our long history of researching amino acids, we understood that the balance of amino acid concentrations in blood changes to reflect a person's health. And this led to the development of a simple cancer screening technology, which can increase the possibility of detection together in combination with other screening tests.

AICS™ is easy on the doctor and the patient, requiring only 5ml of blood during a routine doctor visit. In men, it screens for stomach, lung, colorectal, pancreatic, and prostate cancer, while in women, it screens for stomach, lung, colorectal, pancreatic, breast, and uterine/ovarian cancer.

The concentrations of 19 different amino acids are analyzed. Based on a historical database, the normal concentration profile for a healthy individual is known, as is the profile for each type of cancer that is tested. By comparing the patient's profile to the database, cancers can be detected effectively.

■ Amino Acid Concentration Profile Changes with Health Condition



Source: Modified from Ajinomoto Group Sustainability Book 2018

Beyond Cancer

The body's amino acid concentration profile changes in response to a wide variety of illnesses, not just cancer. As a result, Ajinomoto Co. has also developed the *AminoIndex™ Lifestyle disease Screening (AILS™)*, which uses the same underlying technology to screen for common "lifestyle diseases" such as diabetes. We are currently investigating additional therapeutic areas in which the *AILS™* can be helpful.



A Good Start

Needless to say, every country's health system is different. In some countries like Peru, there is a noticeable gap between the cancer screening facilities in urban versus rural areas, and in private versus public hospitals. Other countries including Singapore are rapidly building additional medical facilities to keep up with rising rates of cancer. And it seems that countries the world over, including the US, UK, and France, are turning their attention to prevention in order to avoid the physical, psychological, and financial devastation that cancer can bring to families.

Compared to other cancer screening methods, the *A/CS*[™] is relatively new, and currently it has only been studied in Japanese subjects. However, more than 150,000 Japanese people have taken the test, and we expect that hundreds of thousands more will take the test in the coming years.

Furthermore, Ajinomoto Co. hopes to support other countries to adapt and adopt *A/RS*[™] technology to suit their individual needs. We consider this our solemn responsibility as we seek to support people all around the world in their pursuit of long, healthy lives.

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About Ajinomoto Co.

Ajinomoto Co. is a global manufacturer of high-quality seasonings, processed foods, beverages, amino acids, pharmaceuticals and specialty chemicals. For many decades Ajinomoto Co. has contributed to food culture and human health through wide-ranging application of amino acid technologies. Today, the company is becoming increasingly involved with solutions for improved food resources, human health and global sustainability. Founded in 1909 and now operating in 35 countries and regions, Ajinomoto Co. had net sales of JPY 1,150.2 billion (USD 10.36 billion) in fiscal 2017. For more about Ajinomoto Co. (TYO: 2802), visit www.ajinomoto.com.