One in five patients worldwide would consider medical tourism

In addition, about 56 per cent reported that they would probably consider going abroad to receive treatment. These were predominately younger adults, either below the age of 55 (19 per cent) or between 55 and 64 (19 per cent). Approximately 46 per cent, mainly aged between 50 and 64 (15 per cent), said that they would not travel to another country for medical reasons.

With an average of 52 per cent, medical tourism was most appealing to people from India, Indonesia, Russia, Mexico and Poland, according to the investigators. In comparison, survey participants from Japan, South Korea, Spain, France, Belgium and Sweden were the least likely to travel for medical treatment. Only an average of about 7 per cent of participants from these countries said that they would travel abroad for medical care.

People who were employed were more likely to consider treatment abroad than unemployed individuals were; and more men (19 per cent) than women (17 per cent) would travel to another country for medical treatment, according to the survey. Many participants said that they would be willing to travel for medical treatment if the costs were significantly lower than in their home country, the investigators said.