

# Japan: opportunities in healthcare

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From medical hardware to drug discovery, Investment manager Karen See explores how Japan is a leader in medical innovations for aging populations

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**Your capital is at risk. Past performance is not a guide to future returns.**

**Karen See:** In less than 3 decades, 1 in 4 globally will be over the age of 65, raising the incidence of age-related ailments. Japan is ahead of this trend, and offers many medical answer.

Japan is often criticised for being at the sharp end of demographic decline. But this reality also puts them at the forefront of related medical breakthrough.

This is particularly evident within medical hardware, where companies such as Olympus and Sysmex are dominant globally in providing leading diagnostic machines in the fight against gastrointestinal and blood diseases.

It is also evident in drug discovery, as illustrated by Eisai a Japanese Pharma company that has been at the forefront of addressing age-related cognitive decline for over 30 years.

Their latest drug - Leqembi - is a world-first in the treatment of Alzheimer's, a disease which currently affects more than 50 million people worldwide, a number expected to triple by 2050.

Although the market remains preoccupied with patent cliffs and the black-box technology of this disease, we believe their first mover advantage, the proved efficacy of their drug and prospects for further improvements in how it's administered create huge long-term upside potential.

Where others see obstacles, we see opportunity. Demographics represent not a challenge, but an impetus for innovation and a unique driver of growth for long term investors in Japan.

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