Division of Clinical Epidemiology

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General Summary

Division of Clinical Epidemiology is promoting the activity of clinical research, clinical epidemiology and education concerning them. Our specific aim is to support clinicians to solve their own problems in daily practice by epidemiological/clinical research skills.

The research themes of our division are medical communication, quality assessment of medical care, behavioral medicine, outcome research, qualitative research as well as disease-oriented epidemiological research. In particular, we aim to produce evidence in the field of primary-care due to the lack of evidence although primary-care is a front-line of practice.

As a contribution to the undergraduate education, our division holds classes of "Evidence-based clinical practice (EBCP)" to make medical students a skillful doctor being able to employ evidence-based approach.

Our postgraduate education concentrates on the methodology of clinical/epidemiological research and biostatistics. "The educational program for primary-care on clinical research methodology", which was started in 2007 by financial support of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in Japan was renewed as "Jikei Clinical Research Program for Primary-care" in 2009. Furthermore, as a subprogram of the project, "New Paradigms — Establishing Centers for Fostering Medical Researchers of the Future" supported financially by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in Japan, "Community Health and Primary Care Medicine" in the doctoral course was launched in 2014. The main aim of these programs is to make a primary-care physician a clinician-researcher.

Research Activities

EMPOWER-JAPAN study: Elderly Mortality Patients Observed Within the Existing Residence

Although little is known concerning the prognosis of patients receiving home medical care in Japan, there have been few prospective cohort studies of the elderly persons receiving the home medical care in Japan. EMPOWER-JAPAN study was started as a multi-centered prospective cohort study to describe in-home mortality and clarify its predictors. The cohort consists of patients who have been newly introduced to home medical care at more than 10 teaching-clinics in Tokyo, Kanagawa, and Saitama. The follow-up period will be 4-years. This study is financially supported by Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

Comparison of diabetes care between specialists and general practitioners by the chronic care model

The chronic care model was developed during 1990's in the United States to improve the care of chronic illness by refining care-provider system, especially in a primary-care setting. The aim of this research is to clarify the usefulness of the chronic care model in Japan. The research plan consists of two steps. The first is to make the official Japanese version of the assessment form "Assessment of Chronic Illness Care" by following the World Health Organization procedure, for instance, translation, back translation and so on. This procedure has been finished. The second step is to compare the quality of diabetes care between specialists in diabetes and primary-care physicians as non-specialists.

Psychological impact of lifestyle-related disease disclosure at general checkup: A prospective cohort study

The psychological impact on patients by disclosing lifestyle-related disease remains unknown. To clarify it, we compared the state of anxiety before and after the explanation of general checkup results by a cohort study in two primary-care facilities.

Cohort study of patient's complexity

As the size of the aged population increases, the patients' complexity on biomedical and psychosocial issues is thought to also increase. To examine the effect of patients' complexity on hospital admission such as length of stay, we started a cohort study at a regional hospital in Tokyo by employing the "Patient Centered Assessment Method".

Publications

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