

## Department of Internal Medicine

### Division of General Medicine

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#### Research Activities

##### *Division of General Medicine, The Jikei University Hospital*

We are attempting to compile a database of our medical examinations and treatments during primary care in outpatient units. The data and information of every outpatient are collected from forms of our own design after being filled out by physicians. The data and information include reason for visiting, symptoms and complains, whether the patient had consulted other physicians, the primary diagnosis, examinations, and care. The frequent consultation reason was abdominal pain, cough and pyrexia. Then, frequent initial diagnosis was upper respiratory tract infection, infectious gastroenteritis and headache. The data we compile, especially from initial visits, are expected to be useful for analyzing trends in primary care at large general hospitals.

Recently, there has been a strong desire for a change of focus in medical education, from hospital-based specialty care to first-line health care, including community health care. Thus, we are now planning the postgraduate and life-long training program of physicians to acquire skills for the general practice required in the community.

##### *Division of General Medicine, The Jikei University Katsushika Medical Center*

We treated 2 cases of dengue disease and presented reports of both cases.

We assessed the association between the serum levels of thiamine and insulin. Outpatients and inpatients with diabetes were enrolled from Katsushika Hospital and examined for disease duration, therapy, plasma glucose levels, HbA1c, and the serum insulin and thiamine levels. We have continued to recruit patients with diabetes and intend to analyze the association between serum insulin levels and thiamine levels.

##### *Division of General Medicine, The Jikei University Daisan Hospital*

###### 1. Study of polymyalgia rheumatic

We found that levels of C-reactive protein are high in all patients with polymyalgia rheumatic and that matrix metalloproteinase 3 is elevated in more than 80% of patients. We can cause mild cases of polymyalgia rheumatic to enter remission by administering 10 mg of prednisolone. We can cure approximately 50% cases, and the other cases need to be continuously treated. Methotrexate is used in refractory cases but has a limited effect.

###### 2. Study of sepsis

Measurement of procalcitonin, white blood cells, and C-reactive protein is limitation in the early diagnosis of sepsis. We have begun to measure the new marker presepsin.

### 3. Study of “do not attempt resuscitation”

We studied whether the “do not attempt resuscitation” order and the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form are known in university hospitals. Almost all physicians and nurses are aware of the “do not attempt resuscitation” order, but about 60% were confused in actual cases. Only 2% know about the PLOST form.

#### *Division of General Medicine, The Jikei University Kashiwa Hospital*

Our research at The Jikei University Kashiwa Hospital has consisted of 3 parts. The first was to develop interprofessional work in the Kashiwa area. We have conducted open seminars related to general medicine and clinical ethics 3 to 4 times per year.

The second part was to develop educational tasks for teaching medical students and junior physicians. We developed the education system using the Internet (called e-portfolio), and it is now being used.

The third part was to establish and manage a Hospital Ethics Committee and a system for Clinical Ethics Consultation at The Jikei University Kashiwa Hospital. There were 14 cases of consultation last year, and these cases are now being reconsidered for presentation and publication.

This year, we studied the use of the POLST form in Japanese hospitals.

### Publications

**Nemoto M, Sasaki T.** High-throughput screening of small interfering ribonucleic acid identifies important modulators in islet dysfunction and apoptosis. *J Diabetes Investig.* 2015; **6**: 390-2.

**Kawasaki A, Matsushima M, Miura Y, Watanabe T, Tominaga T, Nagata T, Hirayama Y,**

**Moriya A, Nomura K.** Recognition of and intent to use gastrostomy or ventilator treatments in older patients with advanced dementia: differences between laypeople and healthcare professionals in Japan. *Geriatr Gerontol Int.* 2015; **15**: 318-25.