

Research Center for Medical Sciences Division of Clinical Epidemiology

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General Summary

The 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” 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

Little is known about the prognosis of patients receiving home medical care in Japan. The EMPOWER-JAPAN study was started as a multicentered 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 up to 4 years. This study is financially supported by the 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 the study was to compare the quality of diabetes care between specialists in diabetes and primary-care physicians as nonspecialists by using the official Japanese version of the assessment form “Assessment of Chronic Illness Care.”

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

To clarify the psychological effect on patients by disclosing lifestyle-related disease, we compared the state of anxiety between before and after the explanation of general checkup results by a cohort study in 2 primary-care facilities.

Cohort study of patient's complexity

As the size of the aged population increases, the complexity of patients regarding biomedical and psychosocial issues is considered likely to increase. The aim of the study was to examine the effect of patients' complexity on the length of stay in hospitals by employing the “Patient Centered Assessment Method.”

Publications

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