

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 and clinical epidemiology and of education concerning them. Our specific aim is to support clinicians to solve their own problems in daily practice by epidemiological and clinical research skills.

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

As a contribution to undergraduate education, our division holds classes on evidence-based clinical practice to help turn medical students into skillful physicians who are able to employ an evidence-based approach.

Our postgraduate education concentrates on the methodology of clinical and epidemiological research and biostatistics. “The educational program for primary care on clinical research methodology,” which was started in 2007 with the 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” was launched in the doctoral course in 2014. The main aim of these programs is to turn primary-care physicians into clinician researchers.

Research Activities

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

Little is known concerning 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 to clarify its predictors. The cohort consisted of patients who had been newly introduced to home medical care at 1 regional hospital and more than 10 teaching clinics in Tokyo, Kanagawa, and Saitama. The follow-up period was until January 31, 2017. This work was supported by Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) KAKENHI Grant Number JP24590819. In May 2019, a member of this study group, who is a visiting researcher and a former graduate student of the Division of Clinical Epidemiology, presented some of the study results at the 10th annual

meeting of the Japan Primary Care Association and was awarded the Hinohara Prize.

Development of a Japanese version of the Patient Centered Assessment Method

With the aging population and with increases in single households and in poverty caused by a disparate society, opportunities to respond to patients with complex problems in the bio-psycho-social aspect are expected to increase in the primary care setting. Preparing a scale to evaluate patient complexity is important. In this research, we developed a Japanese version of the Patient Centered Assessment Method to evaluate patient complexity.

Relationship between drinking habit and patient complexity: a cross-sectional study at a remote island

As aging progresses, not only the frequency of multimorbidity, but also social and psychological problems might increase; therefore, understanding the complexity of patients from the bio-psycho-social perspective is absolutely necessary.

Alcohol consumption, on the other hand, causes various social problems such as restrictions on medical access as well as biomedical problems. If we can clarify the relationship between problems with alcohol and the scale to evaluate patient complexity, we think that we can clarify a part of what approach should be taken on the bio-psycho-social aspects of patients with alcohol problems.

The aim of this study was to clarify, by means of a cross-sectional survey on a remote island, the relationship of problem drinking measured with the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test to patient complexity measured with the Patient Centered Assessment Method.

Education about lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) related contents at medical schools in Japan: a cross-sectional study

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people are reportedly exposed to various risks in terms of bio-psycho-social aspects. A systematic review has revealed that the knowledge and attitudes of members of the medical staff such as physicians, and medical students were improved by education about LGBT-specific health issues.

Therefore, in this research, we conducted a questionnaire survey to clarify the current status of time and educational contents spent on education about LGBT related contents at medical schools throughout Japan. Moreover, by comparing our survey data with the situation in Canada and the United States, we aimed to find problems in education about LGBT related contents at medical schools in Japan.

Publications

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