

Division of Clinical Epidemiology

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General Summary

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

The research topics of our division include medical communications, assessment of the quality of medical care, behavioral medicine, outcome research, qualitative research, and disease-oriented epidemiological research. In particular, we aim to produce evidence in the field of primary care, which, despite being a front line of practice, suffers from a shortage of evidence.

As a contribution to the undergraduate education, our division has classes of “Evidence-based Clinical Practice (EBCP)” to make medical students to be a skillful doctor being able to employ evidence-based approach.

Our postgraduate education concentrates on methods of clinical/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 of Japan, was renewed as “Jikei Clinical Research Program for Primary Care” in 2009. The aim of this program is to teach primary-care physicians to be clinician researchers.

Research Activities

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

Although little is known about the prognosis of patients receiving home medical care in Japan, few prospective cohort studies about elderly persons receiving home medical care have been performed in Japan. The EMPOWER-JAPAN study was started as a multi-center prospective cohort study to investigate in-home mortality and to clarify its predictors. The cohort consists of patients who are 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 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 1990s in the United States to improve the care of chronic illnesses by refining the 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 2 steps. The first is to make an official Japanese version of the assessment form “Assessment of Chronic Illness Care (ACIC)” by following the World Health Organization procedure, for example, translation, back translation, and pilot study. This step has been finished. The second step is to compare the quality of diabetes care between specialists in diabetes and primary-care physicians as nonspecialists.

Recognition and intention of gastrostomy and ventilator use in the care of older patients with advanced dementia: Differences among laypersons and healthcare professionals in Japan

In this cross-sectional study, a comparison was made between laypersons and healthcare professionals regarding the recognition and intention towards end-of-life care, such as gastrostomy and use of a ventilator.

Publications

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