

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 Health, Labour and Welfare 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 involving elderly persons receiving home medical care have been performed in Japan. The EMPOWER-JAPAN study was started as a multicenter prospective cohort study to investigate in-home mortality and to 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 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 research plan consists of 2 steps. The first is to make an official Japa-

nese version of the assessment form “Assessment of Chronic Illness Care (ACIC)” by following the World Health Organization procedure, for example, translation, back translation. This step was finished. The second step is to compare the quality of diabetes care between specialists in diabetes and primary-care physicians as non-specialists.

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 terminal care, such as gastrostomy and use of a ventilator.

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

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

Publications

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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*. 2014 Mar 20. Epub ahead of print.