

Research Center for Medical Sciences Division of Clinical Epidemiology

Masato Matsushima, *Professor and Director*

General Summary

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 (EBCP)” 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 concerning the prognosis of patients receiving home medical care in Japan. EMPOWER-JAPAN study was started as a multi-centered prospective cohort study to mainly describe in-home mortality and clarify its predictors. The cohort consisted of patients who had been newly introduced to home medical care at more than 10 teaching-clinics in Tokyo, Kanagawa, and Saitama. The follow-up period was until January 31st, 2017. This study was financially supported by Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

Development of Japanese version of Patient Centred Assessment Method

With the aging population, an increase in single households, and 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. It is important to prepare a scale to evaluate the patient complexity. In this research, we plan to develop a Japanese version of Patient Centered Assessment Method (PCAM) to evaluate patient complexity. As a procedure, forward translation, reverse translation, checking by the original author, and cognitive debriefing were done. Data collection at family medicine clinics has been started to evaluate the validity and reliability of the scale.

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

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

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 alcohol problems 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 is to clarify the relationship between problem drinking measured by AUDIT and patient complexity measured by PCAM by a cross-sectional survey on a remote island.

Education on LGBT at medical schools in Japan: a cross-sectional study

It is reported that LGBT people are exposed to various risks in terms of bio-psycho-social aspects. A systematic review revealed that knowledge and attitudes were improved for medical staff such as doctors and students by education about LGBT.

Therefore, in this research, we plan to conduct a questionnaire survey to clarify the current state of time and educational contents spent on education on LGBT at medical schools throughout Japan. Moreover, by comparing with the present situation in Canada and the US, we plan to find problems in LGBT education at medical school in Japan.

Publications

Hirayama Y, Otani T¹, Matsushima M (Nagoya Univ). Japanese citizens' attitude toward end-of-life care and advance directives: A qualitative study for members of medical cooperatives. *J Gen Fam Med.* 2017; **18**: 378-85. eCollection 2017 Dec.
Narui R, Tokuda M, Matsushima M, Isogai R, Tokutake K, Yokoyama K, Hioki M, Ito K, Tani-

gawa S, Yamashita S, Inada K, Shibayama K, Matsuo S, Miyanaga S, Sugimoto K, Yoshimura M, Yamane T. Incidence and Factors Associated With the Occurrence of Pulmonary Vein Narrowing After Cryoballoon Ablation. *Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol.* 2017; **10**. pii: e004588.