

## 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 “The Jikei Clinical Research Program for Primary-care” in 2009. Furthermore, as a sub-program 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 more than 10 teaching clinics in Tokyo, Kanagawa, and Saitama. The follow-up period was until January 31, 2017. This study was financially supported by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

*Development of Japanese version of 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 plan to develop a Japanese version of the Patient Centered Assessment Method to evaluate patient complexity. The procedures done were forward translation, reverse translation, checking by the original author, and cognitive debriefing. After data collection at family medicine clinics, data analyses were 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, 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 people 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 revealed that the knowledge and attitudes of medical staff, such as physicians and students, improved with education about LGBT.

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

**Publications**

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