Oral Presentation for Best Abstract “Kurokawa Prize”

Chair: Yugo Shibagaki, MD, FACP, (St. Marianna University)
Jack Ende, MD, MACP, (Immediate-Past President of the American College of Physicians (ACP))

Medical Students Section
P-09 “Cavitary Lung Lesions in a Patient with Positive IGRA and PR3-ANCA are not Always due to TB or GPA: a Case Report of Right-Sided Infective Endocarditis”
Mr. Toshiro Goto a, Hidetaka Yanagi, MD, PhD, FACP a
a Tokai University

P-14 “Severe bilateral Hirayama disease with delayed emergence of intramedullary T2 high signal intensity”
Bohui Qian a, Akiko Ishii b, Masahiko Hiroki c, Akira Tamaoka b
a University of Tsukuba, b University of Tsukuba Hospital Neurology Department, c Tsukuba Medical Center Hospital

Residents / Fellows Section
P-23 “External Validation of Prediction Models for Bacteremia in an Acute Care Hospital: A Retrospective Cohort Study”
Kotaro Fujii a, Toshihiko Takada, MD, PhD, MPH a,b, Tetsuhiro Yano, MD a, Ryuto Fujishi, MD a, Taro Takeshima, MD, PhD, DrPH a, Michio Hayashi, MD a, Jun Miyashita, MD, MPH a,b, Teruhisa Azuma, MD a, Shingo Fukuma, MD, PhD a,b,c, Shunichi Fukuhara, MD, DMSc a,b
a Department of General Medicine, Shirakawa Satellite for Teaching and Research (STAR), Fukushima Medical University, b Department of Healthcare Epidemiology, School of Public Health in the Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University, c Division of Community and Family Medicine, Center for Community Medicine, Jichi Medical University, d Human Health Science, Graduate school of Medicine, Kyoto University

P-28 “Usefulness of a mobile phone application for measurement of respiratory rate in adult patients”
Ryuji Suzuki, MD a, Toshihiko Takada, MD, PhD, MPH a,b, Michio Hayashi, MD a, Jun Miyashita, MD, MPH a,b, Teruhisa Azuma, MD a, Shingo Fukuma, MD, PhD a,b,c, Shunichi Fukuhara, MD, DMSc a,b
a Shirakawa Satellite for Teaching And Research (STAR) in General Medicine, Fukushima Medical University, b Department of Healthcare Epidemiology, School of Public Health in the Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University, c Human Health Sciences, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University

P-55 “The relationship between initial management in emergency department by junior residents and hospital deaths of pneumonia patients: a single-center retrospective cohort study”
Yuki Kondo a, Yuki Kataoka a
a Hyogo Prefectural Amagasaki General Medical Center

Early Career Physicians Section
P-05 “Examiner system: An effective teaching method to improve fundus examination skills”
Kiyoshi Shikino, MD, PhD a, Shingo Suzuki, MD, PhD a, Yusuke Hirota, MD, PhD a, Makoto Kikukawa, MD, PhD a, Masatomi Ikusaka, MD, PhD a
a Chiba University Hospital, Department of General Medicine, b Kyusu University, Department of Medical Education
P-10 "Association between outpatients treated for hypertension in internal medicine and alcohol dependence: A cross-sectional study of an internet panel"

Hisashi Yoshimoto, MD, PhD, a, Mr. Izuru Nakamura b
a Department of Primary Care and Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, University of Tsukuba,
b Department of Medical Affairs, Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

P-16 "Comparison of treatments for persistent/chronic immune thrombocytopenia: a systematic review and network meta-analysis"

Yasuyuki Arai, MD, a, Hiroyuki Matsui, MD, a, Tomoyasu Jo, MD, a, Tadakazu Kondo, MD, a, Akifumi Takaori-Kondo, MD, a
a Department of Hematology and Oncology, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University
Cavitary Lung Lesions in a Patient with Positive IGRA and PR3-ANCA are not Always due to TB or GPA: a Case Report of Right- Sided Infective Endocarditis

Toshiro Goto a [Student, Medical Student], Hidetaka Yanagi a

aTokai University

Introduction:
Infective Endocarditis (IE) can involve a lot of organs, and mimic variable diseases including autoimmune, other infectious, orthopedic, and neurological disorders through mechanisms such as immune complex deposition and septic emboli. IE has been associated with positive ANCA, and could be misdiagnosed as Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis (GPA).

Case Presentation:
A 67-year-old Japanese man with history of dental caries extraction, diabetes mellitus, and benign prostatic hyperplasia presented with one-month history of fever and multiple cavitary lung lesions. On examination, there were fine crackles bilaterally on auscultation. The patient was diagnosed as having active tuberculosis based on positive IGRA and clinical presentation and treated accordingly. After ANCA was found to be positive, he was referred to a nephrologist. Kidney biopsy was performed that revealed proliferative glomerulonephritis. The patient was referred to a rheumatologist, and started on corticosteroid therapy. The fever still persisted, and blood cultures were sent, that turned out to be positive with Enterococcus faecalis. He was transferred to the Infectious disease division of General Internal Medicine department. We noticed the lung cavities were migratory and the patients had peripheral signs. Cardiac ultrasonography showed huge vegetation on tricuspid valve. He was successfully treated with antibiotics therapy consisting of ampicillin and ceftriaxone and cardiac surgery.

Discussion:
The diagnosis of IE, especially right-sided, tend to be delayed since it mimics other diseases. Differential diagnosis of lung cavitation includes but are not limited to tuberculosis, lung cancer, septic emboli and granulomatosis with polyangiitis, but we must not miss right sided IE because it’s readily treatable and fatal if untreated.

We should keep it in mind that right-sided IE is included in the differential diagnosis of migratory lung lesions.
Severe bilateral Hirayama disease with delayed emergence of intramedullary T2 high signal intensity

Bohui Qian a [Medical Student], Akiko Ishii b, Masahiko Hiroki c, Akira Tamaoka b

a University of Tsukuba, b University of Tsukuba Hospital Neurology Department, c Tsukuba Medical Center Hospital

Introduction

Hirayama disease (HD) is a form of cervical myelopathy presenting unilateral amyotrophy in the C7-T1 myotomes, which is related to neck flexion. The progression typically arrests within 3 to 5 years. We report a patient of severe bilateral HD with long-term MRI follow-up, which showed delayed emergence of T2 high signal intensity in anterior horn cells (AHC).

Case Presentation

A 21-year-old man gradually developed bilateral forearm weakness and amyotrophy for 9 months. Clinical examination revealed symmetrical muscular atrophy of the hands and forearms, reduced muscular strength during flexion, extension, and abduction of the fingers, and exaggerated tendon reflexes of biceps and triceps. Needle electromyography showed denervation of the atrophied muscles. Cervical MRI only showed a myelopathy at C6 level. HD, motor neuron diseases, and cervical spondylosis were suspected, and methylcobalamin was prescribed. 2 months later, MRI was conducted again, and revealed anterior disposition of the cervical spine in flexed posture, which confirmed a diagnosis of HD. Despite the treatment, the muscle weakness progressed 1 year later, and MRI showed compression of spine at C5-T1 level by enlarged epidural space, but no intramedullary change on T2-weighted images. 2 year later, symptoms got worsened, and MRI showed T2 high signal intensity in bilateral AHC at C6 level. Finally, he was made to quit his school, and start working, because it became difficult for him to use experimental tools.

Discussion

Although HD is said to be a disease with a good prognosis, there are some severe forms like our patient. The present case shows delayed emergence of T2 high signal intensity in AHC, which implies myelomalacia caused by compression of cervical cord with micro-circulatory changes. Because HD can limit the choice of occupation and ADL, early diagnosis and treatment are important.
P-23 External Validation of Prediction Models for Bacteremia in an Acute Care Hospital: A Retrospective Cohort Study

Kotaro Fujii a [Associate, Senior Resident], Toshihiko Takada a, b, Tetsuhiro Yano a, Ryuto Fujiishi a, Taro Takeshima a, Michio Hayashi a, Jun Miyashita a, b, Teruhisa Azuma a, Shingo Fukuma a, b, c, Shunichi Fukuhara a, b

a Department of General Medicine, Shirakawa Satellite for Teaching and Research (STAR), Fukushima Medical University,
b Department of Healthcare Epidemiology, School of Public Health in the Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University,
c Division of Community and Family Medicine, Center for Community Medicine, Jichi Medical University,
d Human Health Science, Graduate school of Medicine, Kyoto University

Background: For appropriate management of patients with bacteremia, early diagnosis is crucial. Although several prediction models for the diagnosis of bacteremia exist, comparison among these models has not been conducted. Therefore, we compared the diagnostic performance of those models in an acute care hospital setting in Japan.

Study Design: Retrospective cohort study

Setting & Participants: All consecutive patients who had undergone two sets of blood-cultures presenting to Shirakawa Kosei General hospital (Fukushima, Japan) between April 1, 2015 and March 31, 2017.

Selection of published Models: We searched all published models for diagnosis of bacteremia between January 1, 1990 and June 1, 2017, using the PubMed database combining the term (predict OR predicting OR prediction) AND (bacteremia OR blood stream infection). Models eligible for inclusion were i) derivated using logistic models and ii) externally validated.

Statistical analysis: The performance of the prediction models was assessed by discrimination and calibration. Discrimination was evaluated using the Area Under the Curve (AUC). Calibration was assessed by the calibration plot.

Results: A total of 1280 patients were enrolled with 137 (10.7%) episodes of true bacteremia. We assessed the performance of five prediction models. The models by Shapiro and Takeshima demonstrated the highest AUC of 0.76 (95% CI 0.71-0.80) and 0.76 (0.71-0.80), respectively. Although both models showed relatively good agreement between observed and predicted probabilities, the model by Shapiro underestimated the probability especially among the high-risk population, whereas the model by Takeshima overestimated it.

Conclusion: Among the existing models, the models by Shapiro and Takeshima, demonstrated the highest performance with reasonable calibration. To avoid the misdiagnosis of bacteremia, a highly fatal condition, use of the model by Takeshima is recommended in clinical practice.
Usefulness of a mobile phone application for measurement of respiratory rate in adult patients

Ryuji Suzuki a [Senior Resident], Toshihiko Takada a, b, Michio Hayashi a, Jun Miyashita a, b, Teruhisa Azuma a, Shingo Fukuma a, b, c, Shunichi Fukuhara a, b

a Shirakawa Satellite for Teaching And Research (STAR) in General Medicine, Fukushima Medical University,
b Department of Healthcare Epidemiology, School of Public Health in the Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University,
c Human Health Sciences, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University

Introduction: Measurement of respiratory rate (RR) is important for the early detection of exacerbation of patients’ condition. However, it is sometimes bothersome for healthcare providers to measure respiratory rate visually over 60 seconds (one-minute method).

RR measurement using a mobile phone application (app method) has been reported to be accurate and completed in a short time, but investigated only in a pediatric setting.

Objectives: To validate the performance of the app method for measuring RR compared with the one-minute method in adult patients.

Methods
Study design: A cross-sectional study
Setting and participants: Nursing school students in a teaching hospital in Japan
Measurements: The movements of the thorax during spontaneous respiration of five adult inpatients were recorded on de-identified videos. Then reference RR was defined by two independent observers. Participants watched these videos and measured the RR with both the app and the one-minute methods. Also, the time taken for the measurement was recorded.

The RR measured by each method was compared with the reference RR. A Bland-Altman analysis was conducted to calculate bias, limits of agreement, and percentage error. The time taken for the measurement with each method was compared using a t-test.

Results: A total of 59 nursing school students participated; mean age was 20.9 years old (standard deviation 2.9) and 51 (86.4%) were female. When compared to the reference RR, the app method showed a small bias of 0.40 br/min and narrow limits of agreement (-2.8 to 3.6 br/min). The percentage error of the app method was 12.8%. The mean time taken for the measurements by the app method was 22.8 sec (95% confidence interval (CI) 13.9 to 36.6), which is significantly shorter than 65.8 sec (95%CI 61.0 to 73.2) taken by the one-minute method (p<0.05).

Conclusions: The RR can be measured accurately in a shorter time using a mobile phone application in adult patients.
P-55 The relationship between initial management in emergency department by junior residents and hospital deaths of pneumonia patients: a single-center retrospective cohort study

Yuki Kondo a [Senior Resident], Yuki Kataoka a
a Hyogo Prefectural Amagasaki General Medical Center

INTRODUCTION: Some previous study showed that the experience of physician affects the prognosis of hospitalized patients, but it is not known whether the junior residents’ management affect the prognosis of patients in emergency department in Japan.

Objective: To investigate the relationship between initial management in emergency department by junior residents and hospital deaths of pneumonia patients.

METHODS:
Study Design: A retrospective cohort study
Setting & Participants: In a tertiary care hospital we conducted continuous sampling for adult patients with pneumonia who admitted between April 2016 to November 2017.
Exposure: Initial management by junior residents
Comparison: Initial management by non-junior residents
Outcomes: In-hospital death
Statistical methods: We used logistic regression model by EZR (ver. 1.36)
RESULTS: A total of 630 patients were included. The number of males aged 70 years or older or females 75 years or older was 193 (73.1%) in junior resident care group and 197 (68.2%) in non-junior resident care group.

The risk ratio of in-hospital mortality for junior residents management was 1.17 (95% confidence interval (CI): 0.73 to 1.89) compared with non-junior residents. The adjusted odds ratio was 1.23 (95%CI 0.69 to 2.19), respectively.

CONCLUSION: The in-hospital mortality of pneumonia patients initially managed by junior residents was not inferior to patients managed by non-junior residents.
iExaminer system: An effective teaching method to improve fundus examination skills

Kiyoshi Shikino a [Member, Other Doctors], Shingo Suzuki a, Yusuke Hirota a, Makoto Kikukawa b, Masatomi Ikusaka a

a Chiba University Hospital, Department of General Medicine,
b Kyusu University, Department of Medical Education

Introduction:
Fundus examination skill is required for primary care physicians to prevent the development of blindness. However, it is difficult to provide training in the necessary clinical skills as students and the teacher cannot share their visual fields. The iExaminer system turns the ophthalmoscope into a mobile digital imaging device allowing you to view and take pictures of the eye. We investigated whether this methodology is superior to the previous teaching methods for training in the clinical skills required for fundus examination.

Methods:
A controlled trial was designed to compare the effects of two practical guidance methods on student performance during fundus examinations. The study population comprised 71 medical students participating in a general medicine clinical clerkship rotation in 2017. The participants examined the fundus on an eye simulator before and after clinical skills training, and presented their findings (3 findings each before and after the training session). Participants were randomly assigned to either a practical guidance method with the iExaminer System (intervention group: n=34) or a practical guidance method without the iExaminer System (control group: n=37). The training was equally provided for 30 minutes in the intervention and control groups. Major outcome measures were diagnostic accuracy in funduscopic findings and duration of examination in both groups.

Results:
Diagnostic accuracy was higher using the iExaminer System (intervention group: 16.0 ± 0.37% to 40.0 ± 0.49%, control group: 21.0 ± 0.37% to 25.0 ± 0.44%, F (1,211) = 8.07, p = .005). The duration of funduscopic examination was shorter using the iExaminer System (intervention group: 82.2 ± 14.4 s to 66.8 ± 21.3 s, control group: 83.5 ± 13.0 s to 77.1 ± 18.4 s, F (1,211) = 11.77, p = .002).

Conclusions:
Teaching the fundus examination method based on the iExaminer system leads to improved diagnostic accuracy, while reducing total examination time.
Association between outpatients treated for hypertension in internal medicine and alcohol dependence: A cross-sectional study of an internet panel

Hisashi Yoshimoto a [Other Doctors], Izuru Nakamura b

a Department of Primary Care and Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, University of Tsukuba,
b Department of Medical Affairs, Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.

Introduction: Hypertension is one of the most common noncommunicable diseases, and is significantly related to excessive alcohol drinking. Thus, patients with hypertension may have alcohol dependence. However, the association between outpatients treated for hypertension in internal medicine and alcohol dependence is unclear in Japan.

Study Design: Cross-sectional study

Setting & Participants: Internet panel sample from the general population (N=20,000) that had a drinking habit (2–3 times or more/week)

Predictor or Factor: Alcohol dependence

Outcome: Outpatients treated for hypertension in the department of internal medicine (yes or no)

Measurements: Alcohol dependence was defined as an Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) score of $\geq 15$. The AUDIT contains 10 questions: three on alcohol use, four on alcohol dependence, and three on alcohol-related problems. The Japanese version of the AUDIT was created based on World Health Organization (WHO) translational methodology (Hiro et al. 1996).

Results: The mean age of the participants was 49.3 years; 66.0% were men. The number of outpatients treated for hypertension in the department of internal medicine was 3,261 (16.3%). The average AUDIT score was 8.77, and 3,392 (17.0%) patients were diagnosed with alcohol dependence. In the logistic regression analysis, after adjusting for age and sex, outpatients treated for hypertension showed significantly higher alcohol dependence (odds ratio 1.54, 1.40–1.69).

Limitations: Causation cannot be determined in a cross-sectional study. With the internet panel, sampling bias may exist.

Conclusion: Outpatients in Japan treated for hypertension in internal medicine had significantly higher alcohol dependence. Effective alcohol screening and intervention may be essential in internal medicine.
Comparison of treatments for persistent/chronic immune thrombocytopenia: a systematic review and network meta-analysis

Yasuyuki Arai a [Member, Other Doctors], Hiroyuki Matsui a, Tomoyasu Jo a, Tadakazu Kondo a, Akifumi Takaori-Kondo a

a Department of Hematology and Oncology, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University

Background: Recent studies have indicated that medical options without splenectomy, such as rituximab (RTX) or thrombopoietin receptor agonists (TPO-RAs), can be effective to treat persistent/chronic primary immune thrombocytopenia (ITP). However, it remains to be determined which of these strategies should be the first choice.

Methods: We performed a systematic review and network meta-analysis to establish a clinically meaningful hierarchy of the efficacy and safety of medical treatments for persistent/chronic ITP in adults. Randomized controlled trials (RCTs) evaluating medical treatments were included. Reviewers independently extracted data and assessed the risk of bias. The main outcome was the overall response (platelet count ≥50×10^9/L); incidence of bleeding episodes, necessity of rescue treatments, and therapy-related adverse events including thrombosis were the secondary endpoints.

Results: A total of 12 randomized controlled trials (N=1306) were included in this study. Our main finding was an improved overall response in TPO-RA arms (both Eltrombopag and Romiplostim) compared with that of placebo (Risk ratio [RR] with 95% confidence interval [CI], 4.75 [2.49–9.07] with p < 0.01 and 4.21 [1.87–9.52] with p < 0.01, respectively) or RTX (RR with 95%CI, 3.57 [1.05–12.5] with p = 0.04, and 3.22 [0.85–12.5] with p = 0.09, respectively). There were no significant differences between Eltrombopag and Romiplostim (RR with 95%CI, 0.89 [0.33–2.41] with p = 0.82). Moreover, clinically significant bleeding episodes were decreased in TPO-RA arm compared with placebo. Therapy-related adverse events showed similar profiles, and were tolerable in all treatment arms.

Conclusions: TPO-RAs can be first choices for the treatment of persistent/chronic ITP, rather than RTX. Future head-to-head trials including TPO-RAs vs. RTX or Eltrombopag vs. Romiplostim are necessary to validate our study findings and determine the most suitable therapy for persistent/chronic ITP.