Goals of the International Comparative Study

“International Comparative Study on Ideal Terminal Care and Death”

ILC Seminar
End of Life Care:
Japan and the World
February 3, 2012

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“Dying in a hospital started happening because the hospital had already become a place where treatment could be given that was not available in the home. The hospital was originally a place to accommodate pilgrims and the sick and needy of society but it gradually evolved into a medical center where one received treatment and the fight with death was carried out. Formerly people died in hospitals because the physician’s treatment was a failure. Nowadays however, hospitals are not places for recovery but have become places to die.”

“Death (currently) is now a technical phenomenon in which treatment is stopped. That stoppage of treatment is decided by the physician and the medical team at the hospital.”

Philippe Aries: Attitudes before death
Essais sur l’histoire de la mort en Occident, 1975
Background of the Study

Number of Births & Deaths

Proportion of the Elderly (1950-2050)

UN, World Population Prospects 2010
We started with discussion on 2 questions:

Question 1: Why ↑ hospital deaths & ↓ deaths at home?

Question 2: What are the factors that determine where we die?
Question 1
Why ↑ Hospital Deaths & ↓ Deaths at Home?

Place of Death

Question 2

What Are the Factors That Determine Where We Die?

Terminal-stage Medical Care: Where People Die

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Hospital</th>
<th>NH, care home</th>
<th>Home</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>81.0%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>58.1%</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>42.0%</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question 2
What Are the Factors That Determine Where We Die?

Proportion of People Who Die in a Hospital in Different Countries
Question 2
What Are the Factors That Determine Where We Die?

% of Hospital Deaths (Countries Participating in This Study)

Source: International Longevity Center
Dashed lines: Data are missing.
Which Factors Promote/Limit Hospital Deaths?

- Promoting Factors
  1) Aging
  2) Economic growth = ↑ Medical $

- Limiting Factors······？
International Comparative Study on Ideal Terminal Care and Death

- **International Comparative Study on Terminal Care Systems**
  Subjects: Collaborating organizations in each country. Contents: Laws and regulations on terminal care, etc. (Japan, USA, France, UK, Netherlands, Israel, Czech, South Korea and Australia)

- **International Comparative Study on Terminal Care: Individual survey with professionals in a community**
  Subjects: Professional staff members in terminal care in each country via collaborating organizations (in Japan, questionnaires were distributed to the subjects directly). Contents: Ideal and actual terminal care, etc. (Japan, USA, France, UK, Netherlands, Israel, Czech, South Korea and Australia)

- **International Comparative Study on Terminal Care: Institutional survey in a community**
  Subjects: Hospitals and institutions via collaborating organizations (in Japan, questionnaires were distributed to the subjects directly). Contents: Terminal care experience, number of PEG usage, etc. (Japan and South Korea)

- **International Comparative Study on Terminal Care: Interviews**
  Face-to-face interviews in each country. Subjects: Formal providers of terminal care for the elderly. Contents: Real experience of terminal care. (Japan, South Korea and Australia)
Collaborators of the Study

• In Japan: Hospitals, clinics, health care facilities for the elderly, welfare facilities for the elderly, group homes for people with dementia, visiting nurse service providers, care management providers, home care providers, and retirement housing

• International Longevity Centers in: USA, France, UK, Israel and Czech

• Korean Alzheimer’s Association

• HammondCare (Australia)