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Major

Pediatrics, Pediatric Neurology, Developmental Disabilities, International medical cooperation



■ Research topics

## Clinical Studies of Developmental Disabilities

Keywords

Developmental disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Asperger Syndrome, Special Education

Contents

■ Overview

Developmental disability is a medical-psychological condition in which variable brain functions responsible for social relation, regulation of emotion, or language are impaired without mental retardation. Recent studies have revealed that as much as 10% of all children have features of developmental disabilities. Medical research has proved that developmental disabilities are caused by the dysfunctions of brain regions for executive functions, social cognition or language processing. Although medical therapy is effective for some types of developmental disabilities, environmental adjustments, social skill training or behavioral therapies are in the main stream of intervention.

■ Process, case study

We are currently conducting the following research projects.

(1)Development of Japanese version of Pre-Referral Intervention Manual

Pre-Referral Intervention Manual (PRIM) has long been used in everyday classes in the U.S. and is often called as "Classroom Bible". PRIM is a compendium generated by the accumulation of everyday classroom practices by which children's problematic behaviors or skills have been improved. In this project, we will accumulate successful classroom practices/tactics for the amelioration of children's maladaptive behaviors in Japan. We aim to collect some 200 commonly seen maladaptive behaviors and accumulate around 50 useful practice/tactics for each. Please see <http://primjp.cf.ocha.jp/primjp/> for details.

(2)International comparison of factors that affects behaviors of children

Although the causes of developmental disabilities are attributable to brain functions, their symptoms manifest at social interactions. Therefore clinical manifestations of developmental disabilities are known to be different among cultures, environment, history and ethnicity. As a part of research activities of GCOE (Science of human development for restructuring the gap widening society), we have been conducting a comparative research on the QOLs and mental health among 5 and 7 year-old children in Vietnam, Thailand, China and Japan.

■ Potential

Publication of a Japanese version of PRIM

Development of a culture sensitive diagnostic scales for developmental disabilities

Intellectual properties (Patents, computer programs), productization, publications and social/industrial contributions

Support Manual for Developmental Disabilities (ed.) PHP Publishing

Physiology/Pathology/Psychology of Children with Chronic Illnesses (co-author) Minerva Shobo

Potential of social/industrial contribution

■ Joint research: Development of automatic devices/system for observation of children's behaviors at classroom