SIOG/JSMO JOINT SYMPOSIUM: ALL ONCOLOGISTS ARE GERIATRIC ONCOLOGISTS

The educational system about geriatric oncology in Japan

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Japan is a super-aged society ranked number one in the world in terms of average life expectancy, number of elderly people, and speed of aging. The number one cause of mortality among Japanese for more than 30 years has been malignant neoplasm, with mortality continuing to rise. Japanese cancer-treating physicians are in a state in which the frequency with which they are faced with the treatment of elderly cancer patients is rapidly increasing, necessitating that all medical oncologists be geriatric oncologists. In this way, in Japan where a “Silver TSUNAMI” is currently surging, cancer-treating physicians and medical staff have taken a growing interest in how to determine the treatment strategy for elderly cancer patients and how to assess the risks of chemotherapy; however, neither guidelines nor educational systems for medical care for elderly cancer patients exist as of now. In order to overcome these problems, JSMO working group of geriatric oncology was set up in 2016 for making guidelines of systemic therapy for elderly cancer patient. Also, a working group for education regarding cancer care for elderly people was set up within JSMO last year, for which we hope attendance of educational systems will be mandatory for medical oncologists and content available for life-long education will be created. In March 21th, we carried out a half-day programmed seminar to provide basic information of geriatric principles to the clinical oncologists. JSMO working group will continue providing information and education for all health-care providers cooperating with SIOG. It is anticipated that the spread of geriatric assessment tools and the implementation of validation in Japan as well as the establishment of an educational system regarding geriatric oncology will further promote precision medicine in elderly cancer patients.