

Terminal care and death with dignity

Yutaka Suzuki

Saitama Social Insurance Hospital

Honorary Director of Hospital

The progress of medicine makes the span of life longer, and by the progress in the field of palliative medicine, the terminal care for the patients with cancer is improved in Japan. But we have made a new undesirable state of life, that is, 'unnatural alive' instead of 'natural death'.

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare presented 'the guideline how to determine the process of terminal medicine'. Both The Japan Society of Intensive Care Medicine and Japan Association for Acute Medicine announced officially the guideline about the terminal medicine each other.

Unfortunately medical students and medical doctors in Japan have not the chance to receive the education about it during pre- and post-educational course. The regrettable medical accidents of Tokai University Hospital and Kawasaki-kyodo Hospital which were judged as the murder occurred by the result of absence about the terminal care and death with dignity. Now, we have to bring up medical educators who can teach about these medical fields. Both the Yokohama and Tokyo district courts recommended the necessity of making the rule or law about death with dignity. I feel that it is important for the medical doctors to recognize their lack of knowledge about terminal medicine.

abstract of the lecture entitled "Terminal care and death with dignity" at the meeting of the Keio Medical Society on September 24.