



Department of Rehabilitation Medicine.
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What is rehabilitation medicine?

We think the word rehabilitation is often heard not only in the medical world but in terms of welfare and the general community. Rehabilitation means recovery for the disabled. The range of recovery involves physical, mental, social, occupational and economic abilities.

During recovery, rehabilitation medicine targets treatment of the disabled state, particularly on physical side.

Consequently, the work in our department can be summarized as treatment and preventive medicine to minimize the disabled state and maximize residual abilities. Briefly, our mission is to treat and support patients from the medical side to enable them to lead the most fulfilling lives as humankind by reducing the disabled state as much as possible and by bringing out the abilities of patients to the utmost.

Medical treatment for the reconstruction of lives

— The ability to live is important for humans

While our lifespans have been dramatically extended with the progress of medicine and medical technology, the difference in a healthy lifespan is growing. Although a healthy lifespan means the duration during which one can act and live well independently, the number of patients are increasing whose conventional lives are markedly limited because they do not utilize their bodies freely according to sequela and affected chronic disease, even in cases of saved lives. The rehabilitation department carries out medical treatment for the cause of the condition and reconstructs the lives of patients with limited conventional lives using all possible means. We are proud of the department embodying the motto of this university, “Examine a sick person rather than an illness.”

The diseases commonly include cerebrovascular disorders and bone and joint diseases, targeting all immovable disorders.

Causative diseases in patients treated in the rehabilitation department include cerebrovascular disorders (cerebral stroke), head injuries, spinal cord injuries and bone and joint diseases, including joint rheumatism, neurological disorders, cerebral palsy, limb amputation, chronic respiratory disease and post-myocardial infarction. In most cases, all patients in immovable bodies, whatever the cause of the disease, are targeted.

For example, because hospitalized patients with acute pneumonia cannot walk with weak muscle force, treatment is often carried out to improve their condition. The diseases listed above result in an immovable body in most cases, commonly leading to treatment targets, but the rehabilitation department is characterized by conducting treatment for the resulting disorder irrespective of the causative disease.

Practicing team medicine

—Treatment by specialists in numerous occupations

Rehabilitation treatments involve doctors in the rehabilitation department, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, artificial limb therapists, clinical nurses, medical social workers and doctors in other departments. Specialists in many fields who take charge of each patient gather to hold regular meetings on performing specialized treatment with the goal preparing a treatment policy regarding the treatment's duration and goal.

What is the cause of an immovable condition?

— Diagnosis of the cause on a scientific basis

It is necessary to diagnose the cause of a disabled state, including an immovable condition, to proceed with efficient rehabilitation. Through this process, the diagnosis is made regardless of whether the condition has the possibility to return to the former condition. To make a diagnosis, the cause of the disorder is examined, residual functions are evaluated and the functional prognosis is presumed using image processing, such as MRI, CT and SPECT, neurophysiological testing, including electromyogram and nerve conduction study. Rehabilitation treatment progresses based on these findings.

Is the residual disabled state useless?

— Reconstruction of life is the ultimate goal

Unfortunately, the disabled state, including limb paralysis, muscle weakness and sensory disturbance, may remain. Treatment to reduce any disturbance is conducted to the extent possible, but the disturbance will regrettably remain in many cases. However, in such cases, the treatment does not necessarily end. From that perspective, the effect of rehabilitation is demonstrated. Treatment to draw out as much residual function and ability as possible is conducted in each patient to support a higher quality of life while examining the life environment.

Explanation of the course

This rehabilitation department started as a special diagnosis and treatment department in 1983. It was promoted to a course in 1988. Objective diseases for treatment include central nervous system diseases, bone and joint diseases, spinal cord injuries, amputations, and neuromuscular diseases. All diseases addressed in rehabilitation medicine are extensively diagnosed and treated. We think the foundation of this diagnosis and treatment is the attitude of seeing patients as persons when approaching the whole body without sticking to only diagnosis and treatment based on organs and test data.

The features of this course lie in close cooperation in the clinic, education and research among each specialist, including physiotherapists, occupational therapists and speech therapists, with a central focus on rehabilitation doctors. Rehabilitation medicine is not an impracticable theory today and there is a need to cope with a variety of diseases and disorders. It is most important in the practice of a team approach in a clinical setting for patients undergoing rehabilitation.

In addition, the greatest purpose of the course is the training of leadership that supports rehabilitation medicine in our country. The quality required for rehabilitation doctors includes 1.preparation of a proper rehabilitation treatment plan, 2.provision of easy-to-understand information to patients, and 3.preparation of evidence for advanced rehabilitation treatment.

Rehabilitation medicine is one of the curative medicines with the widest treatment range. We guarantee that this course with wide clinical application can provide all medical workers involved in rehabilitation diagnosis and treatment with the knowledge and experience to meet all needs.