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Survey of Problems in Kampo Curriculum and the Need for Interdisciplinary Collaboration Education in Japanese Medical, Pharmacy, Dental, and Nursing Departments

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In recent years, there has been a lot of research on the effectiveness of Kampo medicine. New findings from modern medicine are also being delivered in addition to traditional education in Japanese University. Kampo treatment covers a wide range of disorders. To achieve multidisciplinary cooperation in Kampo treatment, it is necessary to have an education system in which pharmacy, nursing, medicine and dentistry collaborate. The purpose of this study was to investigate the current status of Kampo classes in Japanese universities to clarify the problems experienced by each department and the needs for a system of interdisciplinary collaboration, and to examine what a new curriculum should encompass. We conducted a questionnaire survey of the Kampo curriculum at all medical, pharmaceutical, dental and nursing schools at universities in Japan. The target respondents were faculty members and administrators in charge of Kampo lectures. Multivariate analysis and correspondence analysis were conducted for multiple response items. Fisher's exact test and Cochrane's Q test were used to compare response frequency among departments and desired collaborators in each faculty, respectively. The results showed that the lack of instructors and the number of hours in the curriculum were problems in the departments of medicine, dentistry, and nursing. Medical, nursing, and dental departments cited the lack of time in their curriculum as a problem. The departments of medicine and pharmacy wished to further incorporate experiential learning (active learning) and problem-based learning/tutorial teaching methods. Incorporating an interdisciplinary collaboration system in the Kampo curriculum was required by a large percentage of respondents from all four academic departments. We identified trends in the problems and needs of each individual department, and this has given us direction for the development of Kampo curriculum in the future. Based on these findings, a new curriculum that includes interdisciplinary collaboration is required.