

The 8th International Cochrane Colloquium

**A Systematic Approach to
the Evidence Based Laboratory Medicine
in Japan**

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Introduction

- Evidence-based laboratory medicine (EBLM) requires a more specialized approach than usual evidence-based medicine, because;
 - # Unlike the effectiveness of therapeutic measures which can be evaluated by comparing only two groups, there will be almost infinite combinations of various diagnostic tests and various diagnostic phases in the clinical course.
 - # Unlike the medication which has direct effects to the patient outcome, many steps should be taken to analyze effects of performing laboratory tests to the final outcome of the patient.
 - # There are many factors which cause various statistical biases of the laboratory data.

Purpose

- To organize a comprehensive research group of the leading members of all fields related to the EBLM.
 - # From the experts group of laboratory informatics
 - # From the committee of guidelines for utilizing laboratory tests
 - # From the committee for standardization of laboratory tests
 - # From the experts group of statistics
 - # From major academic societies in the field of laboratory medicine
- To establish appropriate guidelines proper to the EBLM for inspection of usefulness of laboratory tests.
- To promote continuous application of EBLM in practice.

Methods

- The Committee on Systematic Reviewing in Laboratory Medicine (C-SRLM , <http://ebd.umin.ac.jp/srlm/>) was organized by International Clinical Pathology Center (ICPC) as a non profitable expert group.
- It consists of the following four teams
 - # Methodology Team
 - # Selection Team
 - # Statistics Team
 - # Management Team
- Also it collaborates with the Evidence Based Diagnosis (EBD) Research Project Team (<http://ebd.umin.ac.jp/>), which was organized by Japanese government.

C-SRLM in detail (1)

- Chair
 - # T. Kawai (Director of International Clinical Pathology Center; ICPC)
- Vice Chair
 - # T. Kanno (President of Japan Society of Clinical Chemistry; JSCC)
- Methodology Team
 - # Chief: M. Kambe, chairman of the Committee of Laboratory Informatics, the Japan Society of Clinical Pathology; JSCP
 - # It prepares the standard methodology manual for systematic reviewing (meta-analysis) and the requirements for publications which deal with clinical usefulness of diagnostic tests.

C-SRLM in detail (2)

- Selection Team

- # Chief: K. Watanabe, chairman of the Committee of Utilization of Laboratory Tests, the Japan Society of Clinical Pathology; JSCP

- # It selects the subjects suitable to be studied in this project.

- Statistics Team

- # Chief: T. Fukui, Professor of Clinical Epidemiology, Kyoto University, one of the leading researcher in the field of the evidence based medicine; EBM

- # It studies and proposes the most suitable statistical methods to be applied in Systematic Reviewing in Laboratory Medicine (SRLM).

C-SRLM in detail (3)

- Management Team
 - # Chair and Vice Chair of C-SRLM
 - # Leaders of Methodology, Selection and Statistics Team of C-SRLM
 - # K. Kawano (President, Japanese Association of Clinical Laboratory Physicians; JACLaP & Japanese Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards; JCCLS)
 - # I. Sakurabayashi (President, the Japan Society of Clinical Pathology)
 - # K. Nakahara (Professor, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Tokyo University)
 - # It manages the C-SRLM activity and communicates with national and international organizations.

EBD Research Project Team

- Dedicated to studying 'How to Establish Systematic Review of Diagnostic Tests Aimed at Efficient Medical Practice of Good Quality'
- Supported by Grant-in-Aid of Year 2000 from the Ministry of Science, Education, Sports and Culture of Japan (Grant No.12897028)
- Chief researcher : Haku Ishida, Kawasaki Medical College, Japan
- It provides assistance of highly-advanced technologies to the C-SRLM in preparing:
 - # a mailing list for efficient discussions.
 - # a bilingual WWW site to accumulate the database collected through this project and finally to make them easily accessible to the public.

Results at Present

- The initial EBLM oriented research have been successfully conducted.
 - # The First Study Group on SRLM on High Sensitive CRP Measurement dedicated to the multi-centers clinical study on Japanese populations in the cases of neonatal infections and cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases
- Its collaboration with the international organizations is ongoing.
 - # The Cochrane Methods Group on Screening and Diagnostic Tests
 - # The Committee of Evidence-based Laboratory Medicine of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC/C-EBLM)