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Evaluation of Social Benefit from Regional Medical System- An Empirical Study on City of Kobe by Hedonic- Approach -

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Objectives: The benefit of health service system is characterized by two aspects. The first is the benefit of substantial medical service that derived from the supply of actual service. The second is a kind of “external effect” that is recognized as a “relief” of regional residents by ensuring medical service in the region. The purpose of this study is focusing on the latter side of the benefit and to estimate it statistically.

Methods/Design: We focused on city of Kobe in Hyogo prefecture in Japan. We utilized open data source of public announcement of land price and geographical information systems(GIS) to collect information of characteristics on social infrastructure or accessibility of traffic and regional medical condition. The total number of data was 317 samples. Based on the hedonic-approach, some regression models were constructed.

Results: It was suggested that the land price was marginally raised by adding the number of additional health care facilities near the land point. To the contrary, land price tend to drop by prolonging the distance from the nearest healthcare facilities. The coefficients of medical system external effect, which reflected the benefit of resident’s relief was not less than that of some important characteristics as to infrastructure or convenience of daily life.

Conclusion: In summarize, health care system contribute to the regional society by its existence not only as the supplier of medical service, but also as the supplier of relief to the neighborhoods. We should re-evaluate this benefit.

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A Study of Patients’ Knowledge about Carotid Duplex and the Related Factors among Patients Receiving Carotid Duplex

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The aim of this study was to understand patients’ knowledge about Carotid duplex and its relationship with communication with their physicians. In addition, what and how the patients need to know about this examination were also investigated. The study was conducted with a cross-sectional design with structured questionnaires. The participants were recruited in the Carotid duplex room of a hospital located in Taipei area of Taiwan, R.O.C. During March to April in 2009, questionnaires from 252 patients were obtained and data were analyzed by t-test, ANOVA and Pearson

correlation. About the knowledge regarding Carotid duplex, over 60% of all the subjects had correct responds. 95.6% expected to gain clear explanation about the result of Carotid duplex. Many wanted to gain the information from their physicians. In addition, data revealed positive communication behaviors in all dimensions of communication behaviors. Regarding the related factors, patients with higher level of education tended to have significantly higher knowledge. In addition, patients who considered communication behavior among patients and their physicians more positive tended to have significantly higher knowledge. To conclude, patients’ knowledge regarding Carotid duplex was fairly high. Their appraisal of physicians’ communication behavior of was also positive. However, they strongly requested clear information of the results from physicians. In addition, knowledge of Carotid duplex among patients with lower educational level should be improved. Better communication behaviors between physicians and patients should be pursued in order to improve their knowledge.

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Assessment of Hygienic Practices among Poultry Butchers, India

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Introduction – Hygienic practices of poultry butchers is important in maintaining meat hygiene and preventing the meat as vehicle for zoonotic and infectious diseases to keep community safe. This study was aimed to assess the hygienic practices of poultry butchers.

Methodology – Two poultry meat shops were randomly selected from each of the 57 wards of Patna city. Their hygienic practices of butchers were observed for one hour by principal investigator. **Result –** Among total 113 shops studied (One is missing), 31 % shops were in open space and 93.8% shops were located in market areas. Only nineteen butchers (16.8%) had washed the carcass before evisceration and fourteen (12.4%) after evisceration. Overall, only seventeen (16%) butchers had cleaned their knife before each new period of work (during the slaughtering process). None of them had disinfected the knife, cutting slab or floor and the protective equipments. The mean overall hygienic score was 17 (range 9, 33) out of the expected maximum of 69. Infrastructural facilities, water availability, having valid license and hygienic perception of the butchers were found to have statistically significant association with overall hygienic score. Workload, as measured by the number of chickens slaughtered per day, had a positive correlation with hygienic practices. (Spearman's rank correlation – 0.44, P= 0.000). **Conclusion –** Hygienic practices at the poultry butcheries in Patna (probably in other Indian cities too) were dismally poor. Ensuring adequate amounts of water, compulsory licensing and job training to butchers are the dare needs.