

Session Summary

Cerebro/cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are not only the leading cause of death, but also one of the leading causes of long-term care in many countries today. Therefore, various efforts are being made for its prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation. In recent years, challenging attempts have been made to provide dental services to patients with CVDs. On the other hand, new findings have been reported from the standpoint of epidemiological studies on the relationship between oral health and CVDs.

It has become clear that maintaining oral function not only reduces the risk of developing CVDs, but also that early recovery of oral and swallowing functions after onset is beneficial for improving subsequent ADL and QOL. To achieve this, patient-centered team medical/dental care should be seamlessly continued in the acute, subacute, convalescent, and chronic stages after discharge from the hospital.

In this symposium, from the standpoint of physicians, dentists, and dental hygienists who have been involved with patients with CVDs, reports were made on the importance of medical-dental collaboration in clinical practice, its practical methods, effects, and limitations. It will be also shown that decreased masticatory performance, a quantitatively measured index of oral function, is a risk factor for CVDs.

We hope that the participants of this symposium will realize that collaboration among dentistry, cardiovascular medicine, neurosurgery, and rehabilitation medicine will develop various new possibilities in the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of CVDs.