Interdisciplinary Hospital Practicum

Each of the 5th year dental students will get a chance to attend a patient in each hospital ward for a week with students from other schools such as school of medicine, pharmacy and nursing and rehabilitation. This practicum is a compulsory for all 600 students and a final goal of the team medical care education for undergraduate students.

In the first year, all students live in a dormitory located at the base of Mt. Fuji and four students from the different school share a room. Students have inter-disciplinary PBL and on-site learning experience at hospital and welfare facilities in small groups. In the third year, they have inter-disciplinary PBL using scenarios whose main theme is clinical topics such as cerebral infarction, chronic rheumatism and Parkinson disease. In the fourth year, they also have interdisciplinary PBL using simulated medical, dental charts and nursing records. In the fifth year, they have interdisciplinary hospital practicum.

Seven University hospitals, 120 wards join the practical team medical education. As a group, students do a vital check, oral care and drug administration guidance for the patient; attend a walking conference and the other conference relating to the patient. Student group also observe surgery and examinations of the patient. Students understand the patient’s problems as a group and develop treatment and care plan for the patients. Each students group presents a case report on Friday and will be questioned by other doctors and staff during the practicum. It is a good opportunity to make dental students to understand that oral health is an integral part of total health and that oral health care is an integral part of comprehensive health care. The results of students’ questionnaire shows 80% of the students feel this practicum help to join medical team care actively after graduation.