

Pediatric Anesthesia in Japan

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Pediatric anesthesia in Japan practically started in 1965 when late Professor Emeritus Seizo Iwai established Department of Anesthesia at the National Children's Hospital in Tokyo after he returned from Los Angeles Children's Hospital. He also established the Japanese Pediatric Anesthesia Forum, a predecessor of the Japanese Society of Pediatric Anesthesia (JSPA), in 1971, and it had held 61 meetings until 1995 when JSPA was established.

To elucidate the present pediatric anesthesia practice in Japan, I have done a questionnaire study by sending questionnaires to 106 university hospitals in terms of the number of cases in different age groups, types of surgeries, and so forth. I also have sent questionnaire to the member of the representatives of the Japanese Society of Anesthesiologists (JSA), asking for their experience in pediatric anesthesia training, degree of personal interest and present practice. I also have asked them whether they consider pediatric anesthesia as a subspecialty of anesthesia.

We have now 17 children's hospitals and they roughly anesthetize a half of the total number of pediatric cases in Japan. As for types of surgeries such as inguinal hernia, congenital heart diseases, diaphragmatic hernia and esophageal atresia, more than 50 percent of the cases are performed in the children's hospitals.

Based on the analysis of the questionnaires, I would like to discuss future perspective of this promising field.