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An old and new assessment of frailty and heart failure in the elderly: The correlation between *kampo*-scores, “the timed ‘up and go’ test”, and indices with echocardiography

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Background: There is, obviously, a growing interest in the concept of “frailty” in various areas of medicine. Gait speed is a key component of evaluating frailty. The Timed “Up and Go” Test (TUG) is a commonly used measure of functional mobility in the elderly. Meanwhile, optimal design of noninvasive evaluations for diastolic heart failure (HF) remains limited due to the deficiency of simple clinical criteria. Furthermore, numerical scoring systems to evaluate patients’ physical conditions have been induced in *Kampo*-medicine (Japanese Traditional Medicine). *Suitai* (water stagnation)-score and *Qi* (vital energy)-deficiency (QD)-score are one of so-called *Kampo*-scores.

Objectives: This study aimed to examine the correlation between the TUG, *Kampo*-scores, and the indices with echocardiography in hemodialysis outpatients with chronic HF.

Methods: We studied 46 outpatients at the hemodialysis unit with simultaneous *Kampo*-scores, the TUG, cardiographical indices with Doppler. The TUG score is the seconds it takes to complete the assignment (a patient stands, walks 3 m, turns, and returns and sits down). We estimated the *Kampo*-scores with questionnaire and physical examination. We also measured and compared *Kampo*-scores, the TUG and echo-cardiographical indices by linear regression.

Results: Some of the *Kampo*-scores (*Suitai*-score and QD-score) had positive correlation to the TUG [$r=0.68$, $p<0.003$, $r=0.65$, $p<0.04$]. E/e' had positive correlation to the TUG [$r=0.70$, $p<0.00001$]. *Suitai*-score had positive correlation to E/e' [$r=0.75$, $p<0.001$].

Conclusions: Our data suggest that *Kampo*-scores, which are simple, non-invasive and cost-effective clinical assessments, especially *Suitai*-score and QD-score, can be used to define clinical evaluation of frailty in hemodialysis outpatients with chronic HF.

Biography

Kazunari Ozaki is an expertise in *Kampo*-medicine (Japanese Traditional Medicine) and practices as a Geriatrician-in-Chief at Itami City Hospital, Japan. He was a Cardiologist in the Division of Geriatric Medicine and Hypertension (to date, Department of Geriatric and General Medicine), Osaka University Medical Hospital and has also completed his PhD from Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine. He is a fellow of the Japan Society for Oriental Medicine, and a fellow of the Japan Liason of Oriental Medicine. He has been serving as an Editorial Board Member of the *Journal of Kampo, Acupuncture and Integrative Medicine (KAJM)*.

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