



For Your Access to Japanese Clinical Trial/Clinical Research Information

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When rapid product development is hoped by many people, such as the case we are facing with the COVID-19 pandemic, conducting clinical trials is an integral part of the development of medical products, and its information is highly demanded. Today, there are many registries and databases that contain and manage the information of clinical studies, which include clinical trials. These registries/databases usually provide the information about the design, targeted diseases, trial sites, and name and contact of principal investigator of individual clinical studies. The progress or results of some clinical studies are also available. In the past few decades, many of these registries/databases became accessible via the Internet, enabling us to obtain clinical study information easily. This was a big step for not only investigators and health care professionals who are conducting or planning a clinical study but also patients who are participating/planning to participate in it.

When we want to look up clinical study information online in this way, probably ClinicalTrials.gov would be the most popular website to access to. ClinicalTrials.gov is one of the largest clinical study databases which is provided by the U.S. National Institutes of Health. However, when it comes to the clinical studies in Japan, very few studies are registered with ClinicalTrials.gov. It is because interventional clinical studies

conducted in Japan need to be registered with domestic databases at least. These Japanese databases include those provided by the University Hospital Medical Information Network (UMIN), the Japan Pharmaceutical Information Center (JAPIC), Japan Medical Association Center for Clinical Trials (JMACCT), Japan Registry of Clinical Trials (jRCT), among others. While each of these databases has its own unique features, they are all provided only in Japanese, possibly compromising the accessibility of non-Japanese speakers.

One tool to solve this problem is the database provided by the National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) of Japan. It enables cross-search of the clinical research/study information stored in four national registries, including those mentioned above, and it is available in both Japanese and English. I am sure that those who want to do a comprehensive search for clinical study information in Japan would find this integrated database very useful. For example, we can see that 46 clinical studies for COVID-19 being conducted in Japan are registered as of 2nd June by referring from the NIPH's [website](#).

Easy access to the clinical study information allows us to be well-informed and further understand the status and progress of product development, and this is especially important when there is an urgent need for new products. The PMDA encourages you to utilize the NIPH's website to search for clinical study information in Japan to widen your knowledge.

FUJIWARA Yasuhiro, MD, PhD

Chief Executive

Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency