

## The Current State of Ten High-ranking causes of Death in Recent Years in Japan: Prevention Measures

The Editor,

Sir,

It is important to understand the top causes of death in recent years in Japan for such knowledge is useful for prevention measures. In this report, we examined the ranking of causes of death in Japan in both genders from 1999–2006, as reported in the vital statistics of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in the Journal of Health and Welfare Statistics (1).

During the research period, the ten most common cause of death were malignant neoplasm, heart disease, cerebrovascular diseases, pneumonia, unexpected accident, suicide, senility, renal failure, diseases of the liver and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The ten highest-ranking causes of death in 2007 were similar to those in 1999–2006 (1).

Research is continuing in several fields (2–7) to adopt preventive measures but cooperation of members of the medical field, administrative bodies and several related organizations and disciplines are required to effect preventive measures.

From: K Inoue<sup>1</sup>, T Fukunaga<sup>2</sup>, Y Fujita<sup>3</sup>, Y Ono<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Public Health, Fujita Health University School of Medicine, Aichi 470-1192, Japan, <sup>2</sup>Tokyo Medical Examiner's Office, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Tokyo 112-0012, Japan, <sup>3</sup>Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Medical Oncology, Teikyo University School of Medicine, Tokyo 173-8605, Japan.

Correspondence: Dr K Inoue, Department of Public Health, Fujita Health University School of Medicine, 1-98, Dengakugakubo, Kutsukake-cho, Toyoake, Aichi 470-1192, Japan, Fax +81-562-93-3079, e-mail: ke-inoue@fujita-hu.ac.jp

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