

The Current Status of health care System for Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy in Japan.

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Abstract

In Japanese health care system, all citizens must be covered by public insurance and we don't have any private insurance. Therefore, all citizens are given equal opportunity to receive medical care, but only for approved indications. And, in this system, children over 6 and persons under 69 generally cost a 30% co-payment, other persons cost a 10-20% co-payment.

In our country, the extracorporeal shock wave lithotripter for a urinary stone was approved by the government in 1984, and extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy (ESWL) was covered for public insurance in 1987. Afterward, ESWL for a bile duct stone and pancreatic stone were covered respectively.

Meanwhile, in the orthopaedic field, a focused shock wave device was approved by the government in 2008, and extracorporeal shock wave therapy (ESWT) for pain relief was covered only for refractory plantar fasciitis in 2012. The cost of treatment is approximately \$350 per 3 months (regardless of the number of sessions) and, if necessary, we can continue to treat another 3 months with the additional payment.

However, we cannot treat by focused shock wave therapy (FSWT) for tendinopathy other than plantar fasciitis, non-union and so on, through public insurance. Radial pressure wave therapy (RPWT) is also popular in orthopaedic clinic, rehabilitation clinic and sports fields for athletes in Japan. Unfortunately, RPWT isn't covered for public insurance yet. Therefore, when FSWT for other than plantar fasciitis and RPWT are performed, a patient pays at their own expense. In our survey in 2021, the cost of FSWT for patient's own expense set around \$35- \$70 per a session in most facilities. The other hand, as for RPWT, most facilities don't take fees other than for rehabilitation fee covered by insurance. For us, such a situation is undesirable, thinking about the effectiveness of shock wave therapy for many kinds of disease. Now,

we are proposing to expand new insurance coverage of FSWT and RPWT for some of musculoskeletal diseases.

In my presentation, I will introduce about the current status of health care system for ESWT in Japan.

Approved Device and Manufacturer in Japan:

FSWT: EPOS ultra[®] (Dornier, Germany), DUOLITH SD1[®] (Storz Med, Switzerland), BTL-6000 FoCus[®] (BTL, GB)
RPWT: Master Pulse MP100[®] (Storz Med, Switzerland), BTL-6000 TopLine[®] (BTL, GB), Swiss Dororclast[®] smart20 (EMS, Switzerland), Intelect (chattanooga[™], USA), ShockMaster[®] (Gymna, USA) etc.

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