

APS-Japan Activity Report

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【~Emergency • Disaster medical care~
What can we do as a pharmacist??】

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【Back Ground】

Pharmacists have a great responsibility of medical care in time of the emergency and disaster. However, unfortunately, not many people know about that, even pharmaceutical students and pharmacists. It is the first step to know existing circumstances in order to be aware of our social responsibility more. That is the reason why we planned this event.

Japan is a country in the world with many earthquakes. Especially through The Great East Japan Earthquake, we should think what they need and what we should do as a pharmacist. In addition to this, we hope that this event become a step toward progress.

【The Aim】

The aim of this event is to let participants know difference between emergency medical care and disaster medical care. Also, we want them know hands of the pharmacist in these field (especially at the time of The Great East Japan Earthquake).

We believe that it is a good chance for pharmaceutical student to think what pharmacist should do and can do in an emergency.

【Schedule】

1. Introduction: explanation of the theme
2. Ice breaking: self-introduction, play the rope game with all the participants
3. Share information and discussion
 - Q1 What is the difference between emergency medical care and disaster medical care?
 - Q2 What is the characteristic of The Great East Japan Earthquake?
 - Q3 When does a pharmacist get engaged in disaster medical care, what kind of system is supporting us?

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Q4 How to contribute to emergency or disaster medical care do you want if you will be as a member of medical team?

4. discussion roundup

【Details】

Students had a rewarding discussion how we could do as a pharmacist in emergency.

At first, staff members had the presentation to share information as preparing discussion. They explained difference between disaster medical care and emergency medical care.

We can distinguish disaster medical care and emergency medical care by the balance of the patients and medical delivery system. In an emergency medical care, medical care professionals support to each patient with enough medical supplies and health care delivery system. On the other hand, in a disaster medical care, they have to support with limited medical supplies and a medical system. At the same time we have to support many participants and people who suffer damage caused by disaster.

According to this information, we talked about the following things.

- What kind of features did the past earthquakes in Japan have?
- What kind of medical care was provided on that?
- How will you act in the future in a time of disaster?

When The Great East Japan Earthquake was happened, the team of the pharmacist had an active part. However, pharmacist's support system wasn't complete unfortunately. Thus, there were some disaster areas where pharmacists were not enough at just after the accident. When the pharmacists are dispatched from the hospital and pharmacies around the disaster area, it may triggered a shortage of workers their own workplace.

There was an opinion whether we could make the system to dispatch the person who quit their job because of marriage and so on.

Even if some are dispatched from a workplace, it's also helpful workforce to make situation more efficiently.

In the near future, we may have a big earth quake in Japan.

We remind to think what we can do.

【Comment】

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Through this event, we learned various things and were convinced of the important role of pharmacists in emergency. This event became the opportunity for pharmaceutical students to think more about the role by sharing each idea.

[Sho Tashiro]

Originally, I am interested in emergency medical care and disaster medical car, so it was disappointment that only few pharmaceutical experts and students know how it is important roll as a pharmacist.

It was my first time to organize such Workshop. At the end of this, I found out there are many pharmacy students who are interested in this topic. I would like to keep continue to organize like this event.

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