

Introduction

My future dream is to become a doctor. In Japan, to become a doctor, we have to graduate medical school and pass the National Examination for Medical Practitioners. Is this common everywhere in the world? I researched on the Internet, and I found that in the U.K., there is not a National Examination for Medical Practitioners. This contrasts with many countries such as the U.S., Germany and Japan. I wondered why. Is there anything else different? What makes Doctors is their medical education, are there any differences in doctors by medical education? Gradually I have been interested in the differences in medical education systems between the U.K. and Japan, so I decided to research it. I specifically researched the medical school and clinical training.

Medical Education System in Japan

I interviewed Prof. Ban about medical education system in Japan on May 2 at Nagoya University. He is at the top of the medical education in Japan.

1. Medical school in Japan

(1) Before entering a medical school

In the January of twelfth grade, students have to take the National Center Test for University Admissions and get good scores. In the February of twelfth grade, students have to pass the entrance examination of each university. After graduating high schools, students enter medical school directly.

(2) In medical school

In first and second year, students study liberal arts and basic medicine*

Basic medicine... Learning the structure of the human body, the function, diseases and then causes to get a basis of medical understanding e.g. Anatomy, biochemistry, pathology, physiology. In third and fourth year, students study clinical medicine.

*Clinical medicine... A research field which relates directly to medical examination and treatment

e.g. Otolaryngology, surgery, Ophthalmology Later in forth year, students must pass the common examinations to do clinical training in hospitals. These are called CBT* and OSCE**.

*CBT... The computerized examination which judges whether students have the medical knowledge required before starting clinical training

**OSCE... The examination which judges whether students have the skills and attitude required for clinical training In fifth and sixth year, students do their clinical training. At the end of sixth year, students must pass the National Examination for Medical Practitioners.

1 grade	2 grade	3 grade	4 grade	5 grade	6 grade
Liberal arts		Clinical medicine		Clinical training	
Basic medicine					

Table 1 Medical school in Japan

2. Clinical training in Japan

After graduating medical school and being licensed as a doctor, clinical training takes place in hospitals. They

rotate clinical subjects for two years. They rotate through clinical departments including the internal medicine department, the emergency department and regional medicine. These three departments are compulsory.

1 year		2 year		
Internal Department	Emergency Department	Surgery	Regional Medicine	Special department
6 months	3 months	3 months	1 month	

Table 2 Example of clinical training

After finishing clinical training, doctors choose special departments and they become medical specialist.

Medical Education System in the U.K.

I interviewed Dr. Pia Thiemann and Dr. Thelma Quince in Cambridge Institute of Public Health on July 21. They taught me about the medical education system in the U.K. and answered my questions.

1. Medical school in the U.K. (Mainly Cambridge)

(1) Before entering medical school

In the May or June, Students take General Certificate of Education Advanced Level (A-Level). They have to take "A+AA~A+A+" scores to enter medical school in Cambridge. In the October, students submit applications for admission to medical schools in Cambridge. In the January or February, students undergo interviews in each university. In Cambridge, there are two interviews. After graduating high schools, students enter medical schools directly.

(2) In medical school

In the first two or three years, students study biomedical science*.

In Cambridge, students study them for three years. *Biomedical

science... The system that the doctors treat a disease by using medicine, radiation and a surgical operation. Other name is western medicine. At the end of second or third year, students must pass CBT & OSCE, the same as Japan. In Cambridge, students take the test at the end of third year. In the latter three years, students do clinical training in hospitals. After graduating medical schools, students become doctors without a National Examination for Medical Practitioners, but they have to study hard to graduate university. They have to pass the all examination set by their universities, so it is hard to be a doctor.

1 year	2 year	3 year	4 year	5 year	6 year
Biomedical Science			Clinical Training in hospitals		

Table 3 Medical school curriculum in Cambridge

2. Clinical training in the U.K.

An Interview in Cambridge

In Cambridge Institute of Public Health on July 21, with Dr. Pia Thiemann and Dr. Thelma Quince

Q. What do you think about the medical education system in Japan and the U.K.?

A. They are very similar, but students in Cambridge don't study liberal arts. To learn liberal arts is good. And I think two years for clinical training is short. Medical students in Japan should do clinical training longer, because it is important to see patients. (Dr. Quince)

Q. Why is not the National Examination for Medical

After graduating medical schools, doctors do clinical training in hospitals. They rotate through clinical departments every six months for two years. After finishing clinical training, they choose special departments and become medical specialists.

Practitioners in the U.K.?

A. I think this is because the authorities of universities are admitted highly in the U.K. And it is difficult to enter medical school and students are not admitted staying two years in the same grade, so it is hard to become a doctor. (Dr. Thiemann)

Q. What do you think is the most important thing for doctor?

A. Sympathy, clinical skills, communication skills and not seeing diseases, seeing patients. (Dr. Quince)

Discussion

Comparing both systems, I found that the Japanese and British medical education systems are similar. This is because the Japanese medical education system came from Germany, and the German and British systems are similar. I would like to study medicine in the U.K, and Germany someday. I really thank to teachers in Asahigaoka high school, Prof. Ban of Nagoya University, Dr. Quince and Dr. Thiemann in Cambridge. Thanks to them, I could completed this research and made up this

article. I really understood the similarity and differences of Japanese and British medical system. This experience will lead me to my future dream. I would like to become a doctor who has sympathy, clinical skills, communication skills and can see patients then, I would like to work in the worldwide.