2. Education of Rehabilitation Medicine in Korea

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1. History

The concept of program of Rehabilitation Medicine of the disabled in a modern sense were introduced to Korea during the Korean War that broke out in 1950. During the war, the persons with disability were mass produced. Beginning from 1954, Dr. Rusk sent a number of Korean medical doctors to New York University every year, to train them with Rehabilitation Medicine, thus providing Koreans with the opportunity to develop Rehabilitation Medicine in relatively early days.

In 1958, Rehabilitation Educational Course was introduced in Yonsei University College of Medicine. In 1960s, many medical doctors, who had been trained in the United States, returned to Korea and helped creating Rehabilitation Department in major hospitals. In 1971, first physiatrist training was established in Wooseok University. In 1972, the Korean Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine was established. In 1983, the first certified physiatrists were produced.

2. Undergraduate Education

In Korea, the student takes the entrance examination of medical school after 12 years elementary, middle and high school study. After enrolled to the medical college, there is 6-year medical student education program including 2-year pre-medical school. The lecture in Rehabilitation Medicine is performed in 39 medical schools (95.1%) among total 41 medical school, and the clinical practice is performed in 36 medical schools. The lecture includes stroke rehabilitation, brain injury rehabilitation, rehabilitation for spinal cord injury, rehabilitation for the amputee, rehabilitation for the cerebral palsied, musculoskeletal rehabilitation, cardiopulmonary rehabilitation, prosthetics and orthotics, electrodiagnostic medicine and so on.

3. Post-graduate Education

In Korea, there are two post-graduate programs. One is residency training program for the certified physiatrist, and another is post-graduate school for the degree of M.S. and PhD. For the residency training in Rehabilitation Medicine, one must complete six years of graduate medical education in medical school followed by one year of internship. A specialist in Rehabilitation Medicine is required to undergo four years of training in an approved program emphasizing clinical management of problems associated with disability with the objectives of restoring the disabled person to his optimum level. Our academy provides the annual meeting (Spring and Fall), the monthly seminar and the summer training lecture for successful training. Also, our academy supervises the in-training examination for evaluation of residency training quality yearly. The related major department training includes Radiology, Rheumatology, Orthopaedics, Internal Medicine, Neurology and Neurosurgery. We have sixty-two approved Rehabilitation Medicine training hospitals (41.9%) among total one hundred forty-eight residency training hospitals in Korea. The number of training hospital was increased from 1971 to 2000.
portion of rehabilitation training hospital among total training hospital was increased gradually. And the number of resident in training was increased. Currently, 322 medical doctors are involved in rehabilitation residency training. The postgraduate rehabilitation medicine M.S. course was opened in 23 medical colleges, and the PhD. course was opened in 12 medical colleges.

4. Certification

We have certified board such as Orthopaedic surgery and Neurosurgery since in 1983. In 1983, 22 first certified physiatrists were produced. In 2001, we have 591 certified physiatrists. Currently, above fifty new certified physiatrists were produced. The number of board certified physiatrist was increased gradually. The requirement for certification examination includes as follows; four-year training with satisfactory education aims, over 300 in/out-patient experiences, over 200 electromyography experiences, over 12 out-hospital seminar attending, over 200 in-hospital seminar attending, over 3 scientific article and training at related department. The areas of examination are stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, amputation, cerebral palsy, musculoskeletal disorder, cardiopulmonary diseases, prosthetics and orthotics, electrodiagnostic medicine, and physical medicine. The examination is divided into two parts; 1st part written examination (100 questions including multiple choice questions) and 2nd part slide and oral examination. The examination is supervised by the Korean Academy of Medical Sciences and Korean Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine yearly. The passing criteria of examination is above 60 scores in each examination. In case of training at foreign country, we require the similar foreign training contents and duration to training in our country. If insufficient training duration, require complementary training at certified domestic hospital.