

Variations in Deaths due to Vascular and Unspecified Dementia in Japan

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Abstract

Background: Vascular and unspecified dementia, which is the 9th leading cause of death in Ja-pan (2018), and senility have become major public health challenges in Japan. Efforts to clarify variations in deaths due to dementia in all 47 prefectures in Japan will provide useful information for health care strategies for the elderly.

Objective: The present study was conducted to investigate variations in deaths due to vascular and unspecified dementia in all 47 prefectures in Japan.

Study design: This is an epidemiologic study.

Methods: The number of deaths due to 10 major causes, including vascular and unspecified dementia, between 1995 and 2019 in all 47

prefectures was obtained from the Statistics Bureau of Japan official website. Variations in deaths due to vascular and unspecified dementia were compared with those from other major causes. The effects of social factors on deaths due to vascular and unspecified dementia were also evaluated in an ecological study.

Results: Deaths due to vascular and unspecified dementia were the 9th major cause of death in Japan in 2018. Variations, represented by the coefficient of variation, in deaths due to vascular and unspecified dementia were the highest among the 10 major causes of death in all 47 prefectures in Japan. The number of elderly individuals (□65 years old) (%) and medical bills per elderly subject (□75 years old) (Japanese yen) were

closely associated with deaths due to vascular and unspecified dementia in a multiple regression analysis.

Conclusion: Marked variations in deaths due to vascular and unspecified dementia were observed among all 47 prefectures in Japan.

Keywords: Dementia, Coefficient of variation, Japanese, Ecological study