

## Cardiovascular anaesthesia & TOE training in Japan or Asia

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The recent development of cardiovascular anaesthesia in Asian countries is unexpectedly fast. We hold the ASCA meeting every two years, last meeting 2009 in Tokyo, 2011 in Taipei and the next ASCA will be held in 2013 in Singapore. We will keep in contact with the international CV anaesthesia meeting; EACTA, SCA and ICCVA and other societies and also perfusionist, nurse and ICU specialist. It is not uncommon to have more than 3000-5000 cardiac cases a year in one hospital in several Asian countries. However the education system in our area is still under development.

My understanding is that an education of cardiac anaesthesia will lead to all fields of patient healthcare not only in OR of a cardiac and non-cardiac surgery but in critical care situations.

One of the most recent advantage and development of a cardiac anaesthesia is TOE knowledge when it is sometimes difficult for the anaesthesiologists to understand the anatomy and disease of the heart. In Japan, we started a TOE examination in 2004, the Japanese Board of Perioperative Transesophageal Echocardiography (JB-POT), by the Japanese Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists (JSCVA) in association with the

National Board of Echocardiography (NBE). The JB-POT will develop and administer an examination in the field of peri-operative TOE. Around 500 candidates will apply for this exam (Japanese or English) every year.

The final goal of the TOE examination is to cultivate specialized cardiovascular diagnosticians especially in the field of peri-operative TOE, which will lead to the board of cardiovascular anaesthesia. The JB-POT will authorize competent candidates, and expect those certified specialists to enhance the quality of peri-operative TOE by making the effort to optimize their skill in the performance and interpretation of cardiac ultrasound, and furthermore to take a core position in the operation of TOE.

Our ASCA society started the basic TOE workshop with TOE simulators with basic TOE lectures, which will be very useful for the anaesthesiologists unfamiliar with TOE. We will develop this concept in relation to other informed societies. I hope we would like to keep in contact with EACTA, hopefully developing the international board and/or certification of cardiovascular anaesthesia. I will show the detail of TOE education and recent Asian aspects of the cardiovascular anaesthesia education system.