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Travel Dialysis between Korea and Japan for 6 years

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Objectives: To respond to travel dialysis needs, we launched a travel dialysis project. Traveling, including going abroad, gives patients something to live for, and gives them great energy in dialysis treatment, daily life and work, and improves quality of life. The international public service for dialysis patients started in April 2016, but there are growing needs for several dialysis facilities, regardless of the country, to support or cooperate with our business. The World Travel Dialysis Medical Network (WTDM) has been established to promote travel dialysis throughout the world in connection with many medical facilities in Japan and abroad, and its achievements are reported.

Methods: In order to make dialysis patients' overseas trips safer, medical professionals from all over the world have established trusted relationships and signed medical agreements (MOUs) to increase the number of cooperative dialysis centers. Through our transparent Global Travel Dialysis Medical Network, we are able to introduce international travelers to reliable medical institutions close to where they want to visit. Although travel has been restricted for the past three years due to COVID 19 disaster, there have been about 9 Koreans and Japanese travel dialysis services from 2016 to 2022. The number of patients may feel so small, but including their family, we were able to support the 48-member trip between Korea and Japan.

Results: The total number of overseas travel dialysis using our global travel dialysis medical network is 36 (112 including family members). Although COVID-19 situation was still in progress, we were able to support overseas travel between East Asian countries (cheap, near, and short-term : Taiwan, Vietnam etc) which is relatively easy for dialysis patients to travel abroad.

Conclusions: There will be many international events between Korea and Japan (2025 Osaka Expo, 2030 Busan Expo, etc.), and more foreign tourists are expected to visit Korea and Japan.

Figure 2 Japan to Korea Travel Dialysis