

Present Situation and Problems of Risk-communication about Echinococcosis

Katsumi WATANABE

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1. Introduction

Echinococcosis is zoonosis that causes a heavy impaired liver function and so on after ten years or more from infection. We are infected with echinococcosis by the eggs excreted by foxes and dogs, etc. Recently, the infection region of echinococcosis have expanded in Hokkaido and the residents around Sapporo city are recognized as new patients. Counter-measures against echinococcosis that the administration is centered cannot stop the prevalence of echinococcosis, and I cannot help saying that current measures are limited.

In this paper, based on risk-communication, I clarify whether information on echinococcosis is appropriately transmitted from the administration to the local residents, and whether the local residents correctly recognize those information and they are taking the risk evasive action. Additionally, I also clarify local residents' tendency to acknowledgment of echinococcosis, and feature of people who feel uneasiness to echinococcosis or who doesn't know echinococcosis. Based on those results, I present counter-measures against echinococcosis that have to be done in the future.

2. Method

First, I polled Hokkaido prefecture and autonomous bodies (Sapporo city, Otaru city, Furano city, and Kosimizu town), and clarify their approaches to echinococcosis.

Then, I analyze the results of the questionnaire, and examine local residents' recognition and counter-measures to echinococcosis. I analyze the results of the questionnaire by means of cross tabulation, chi-square test, considerations of strength of relation that use log odds ratio.

3. Result and discussion

First, from the interview survey, it has been understood that there are differences in counter-measures against echinococcosis between regions and these are ardently done in the regions where the history of echinococcosis is long.

Then, from the analysis of the results of the questionnaire, it is clarified that degrees of acknowledgment of implementation of 'consultation of serological test' and degrees of acknowledgment of 'dispersion of baits' are low (particularly in cities), and people who feel uneasiness to echinococcosis but doesn't know counter-measures of echinococcosis have tendency to live in urban area (particularly in Sapporo city) and be young and live present place shortly (in ten years).

4. Conclusion

From the above-mentioned result, it has been understood that present counter-measures against echinococcosis doesn't fill the requirement for risk-communication.

And, it can be said that 'consultation of serological test' and 'dispersion of baits' not being acknowledged so much by the local residents are ought to be appealed. Because people who feel uneasiness to echinococcosis but doesn't know counter-measures against echinococcosis have problems most in view of risk-communication., it is necessary to advance the approaches that people who live in urban area and are young and live present place shortly can learn echinococcosis.

It is thought that the risk of echinococcosis to local residents will decrease by doing counter-measures of echinococcosis in the future based on these respects.