

Combination of advanced technique of endoscopic diagnosis, minimally invasive therapy and novel molecular biology for diseases of digestive tract in digestive disease center, Showa University Northern Yokohama Hospital

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Showa University Northern Yokohama Hospital, founded in 2001, is the most recent Showa hospital to be founded. With the concept that "this hospital is not a place to bear anxiety and suffering but a place where hope and joy is born", the goals of the hospital are 1) for the patient to feel at peace, 2) no accidents, and 3) practice of medical care of the highest quality. The hospital contributes to the community medical care by being in charge of the high level specialized medical care by internists and surgeons working on the same medical team. It has 661 beds, a digitalized medical recording system, emergency medical center and a palliative care ward. Effort is poured into the improvement of the quality of medical care and dedicated patient service.

Digestive Disease Center is one of the special sections in Showa University Northern Yokohama Hospital, and offers advanced techniques of endoscopic diagnosis and minimally invasive therapy. Showa University International Training center for Endoscopy and endoscopic surgery (SUITE) is an international training center for endoscopy and endoscopic surgery, solely focusing on endoscopy-oriented diagnosis and treatment for example magnifying endoscopy, colonic pit pattern diagnosis (well known as Kudo's classification), IPCL pattern diagnosis in the squamous epithelium, NBI magnifying diagnosis in the stomach, EMR/ESD, per-oral endoscopic myotomy (POEM) for esophageal achalasia, single incision surgery, and laparoscopic & thoracoscopic surgery. A cutting edge topic in SUITE is endocytoscopy (ultrahigh magnification endoscopy), which allows us to observe living cancer tissue *in vivo*. This facility closely collaborates with Digestive Disease Center.

Additionally, we are trying to develop advanced molecular diagnostic techniques on detecting circulating tumor cells, micrometastases and tumor associated macrophages in the patients with gastrointestinal malignancies.

Biography

Hiroaki Ito graduated from School of Medicine, Jichi Medical University, Japan, obtaining a medical license. He has completed his Ph.D. at the age of 37 years from Niigata University. He is board certified surgeon in gastroenterology and also board certified gastroenterologist. He is the assistant professor of digestive surgery, Digestive Disease Center, Showa University Northern Yokohama Hospital, and he has been working hard as a physician and a scientific researcher. He has published more than 30 papers in reputed journals and is an editorial board member of several scientific journals.

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