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Alert for EEG examinations to prevent COVID-19 infection

(Joint proposals by the Japan Epilepsy Society, Japanese Society of Clinical Neurophysiology, The Japan Neurosurgical Society, Japanese Society of Neurology, Japanese Society of Child Neurology, and Japanese Society of Psychiatry and Neurology)

As a countermeasure for COVID-19 infection, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare of Japan made an alert on March 2020. To avoid droplet or contact infection, the following 3 conditions should be avoided:

- (1) closed spaces with insufficient ventilation
- (2) crowded conditions with people
- (3) conversations in short distance

The environment of EEG examination room may corresponds to (1). When attaching or detaching electrodes, an EEG technologist and a patient may remain close to each other for a relatively long time, which corresponds to (3). Therefore, it is important to be aware of the following 4 points:

- i. **A need of EEG examination must be carefully weighed against the risk of infection.** The situation of each medical institution and community for risk of infection should be also considered.
- ii. **Gloves must be always worn when attaching/detaching electrodes** to protect themselves and patients from infection. Epileptic seizures may cause drooling and coughing. Please take preventive measures against droplet and contact infection.
- iii. **A need of hyperventilation procedure must be carefully weighed against the risk of infection.** Hyperventilation may corresponds to (3). It may also cause coughing is induced, the risk could be even increased.
- iv. **Masks must be worn by patients and technologists.**