



Title	Impact of specialization in gynecology and obstetrics departments on pregnant women's choice of maternity institutions
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Citation	大阪大学, 2014, 博士論文
Version Type	
URL	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/11094/34342">https://hdl.handle.net/11094/34342</a>
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## 論文内容の要旨

## Synopsis of Thesis

氏名 Name	足立 泰美 Yoshimi Adachi
論文題名 Title	Impact of specialization in gynecology and obstetrics departments on pregnant women's choice of maternity institutions(産婦人科集約政策の評価)

## 論文内容の要旨

## 〔目的(Purpose)〕

In April 2008, specialization in gynecology and obstetrics departments was introduced in the Sennan area of Osaka prefecture in Japan that aimed at solving the problems of regional provisions of obstetrics services (e.g., shortage of obstetricians, overworking of obstetricians, and provision of specialist maternity services for high-risk pregnancies). Under this specialization, the gynecology and obstetrics departments in two city hospitals were combined and reconstructed into two centers, i.e., the gynecological care center in Kaizuka City Hospital and the prenatal care center in Izumisano City Hospital. This paper investigates to what extent and how this specialization affected pregnant women's choices of the prenatal care center and other maternity institutions.

1. Was the specialization undertaken by these gynecology and obstetrics departments a valid approach to improve the regional provision of obstetrical service in the Sennan area?
2. Did the specialization of the gynecology and obstetrics departments in Kaizuka City Hospital and Izumisano City Hospital affect pregnant women's choices?

## 〔方法(Methods)〕

We used birth certificate data of 15,927 newborns from the Sennan area between April 1, 2007 and March 30, 2010, for Before and After Analysis to examine changes in pregnant women's choices of maternity institutions before and after the specialization was instituted.

## 〔成績(Results)〕

With regard to the first question, in the second year after the specialization, the net increase in low birth weight in Izumisano City Hospital was equal to that in Kaizuka City Hospital before the specialization. In addition, the net increase of premature births in Izumisano City Hospital was twice the size of that in Kaizuka City Hospital before the specialization. It should be noted that part of the increase in these high-risk births at Izumisano City Hospital may be due to it being one of a smaller number of available options however this amount cannot be quantified. Furthermore, the ratio of high-risk births (either low birth weight births or premature births) at Izumisano City Hospital versus those at other facilities exhibited an increased tendency for high-risk births shifting from other facilities to Izumisano City Hospital. Concerning the second question, based on the regression analysis, we found that in addition to Izumisano City Hospital, the pregnant women with normal deliveries tended to choose the maternity facilities close to Kaizuka City Hospital but no other facilities that were far from Kaizuka City Hospital.

## 〔総括(Conclusion)〕

Our results indicated that after the specialization, women with risky pregnancies tended to choose Izumisano City Hospital. We also found that the distance from one's residence to the maternity facility is normally an important factor considered by pregnant women when they choose where to deliver.

## 論文審査の結果の要旨及び担当者

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論文審査の結果の要旨		
<p>近年医師不足が深刻化し、限られた医療資源に対し効率的な体制が求められている。本論文では、このような社会問題の一解決策として、医療機関の集約化を取り上げている。</p> <p>大阪府泉南地域では、2008年4月に泉南地域に立地するりんくう総合医療センター市立泉佐野病院と市立貝塚病院の産婦人科を集約化し、産科に特化した泉佐野病院、婦人科に特化した貝塚病院に機能を分化並びに専門化を図った。しかしながら、集約化による近隣の医療機関の閉鎖が患者側の施設選択に制約が生じて、医療アクセスの低下を招く可能性がある。</p> <p>本論文では、この両医療機関の集約化政策が妊婦の施設選択に与える影響を、出生証明書データを用いて分析した。その結果、集約化前と比較し、妊婦は相対的に泉佐野病院を選択し、なかでも低出生体重児や早産のリスクを伴う出産については、よりその傾向が強いことが明らかとなった。したがって妊婦は、集約化後産科を継続して行い、かつ専門分化した泉佐野病院を選択していることが示された。</p> <p>本論文は社会的に問題となっている産婦人科の医療資源不足に対し、近年行われた集約化政策については分析している点で、高い独自性と新規性を有している判断できる。よって、本審査委員会は、論文審査の結果、全員一致で学位申請者に対し学位博士を授与するのが適当であると判断した。</p>		