

## 病院における後発医薬品処方動向解析

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### Analysis of the Frequency of Prescription of Generic Drugs in Hospitals

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#### Summary

With the aim of reducing medical costs, the Japanese government has sought to promote the use of generic medications. In April 2008, the government implemented a substitution system for prescription drugs, which allows pharmacists to use substitute generic drugs upon the patient's request. We surveyed the contents of prescriptions in Japan, in the one-month period before implementation of the substitution system. The prescription of generic drugs was assessed using prescription data from 24 hospitals in March 2008. Furthermore, improvements in generic drug formulation and packaging were investigated. The proportion of generic drug use in hospitals was very low, by volume. The majority of frequently prescribed generic drugs were associated with a small reduction in drug cost, while the frequency of improvements in drug formulation and packaging was very high.

#### Key words

Generic drug, Prescription frequency, Drug cost, Improved drug formulation and packaging, Brand-name drug