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## Guest Editorial

### *“Yasui Classification” of the Indications for Kampo Treatment*

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Kampo, traditional Japanese medicine, has been integrated into modern medicine in Japan, creating a unitary medical system. This system is valuable both for medical professionals and for patients. Especially, medical doctors should know the indications and limitations of Kampo medicine in daily practice. Dr. Hiromichi Yasui has a long-term clinical experience in both western and Kampo medicines, in addition to his deep insight into medical history. When we select Kampo in the decision tree of our daily practice, we should take into consideration the merits and demerits of western medicine and Kampo medicine. In modern medicine in Japan, western medicine is overwhelming, and all the medical doctors are educated with western medicine at medical school and in their residency. However, since the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Kampo has officially been introduced into medical education system. All the medical students in Japan are supposed to learn at least the beginning of Kampo medicine. Owing to this revolutionary change, almost no sense of resistance is seen in medical doctors of young generations. On the other hand, not so many doctors prescribe Kampo medicine with Kampo diagnosis. Sometimes, misuse of Kampo happens. There are two extremes, from “no Kampo” to “only Kampo” in Japanese medical doctors. These situations are unhappy for patients. Although various mixed patterns of the above two extremes are present, we need to clarify the indications of Kampo in modern medicine. This is an essential desire of clinicians to provide the most suitable treatment to each patient, and of course, patients hope it. In this issue of KAIM, Dr. Yasui clearly classified the indications of Kampo in various situations. This is the first attempt in this field, and I would like to name this classification as “Yasui Classification” of the indication for Kampo medicine in modern medical system. I sincerely hope this classification is applied to daily practice and clinical research from now on.

**Yoshiharu Motoo, MD, PhD, FACP**

Professor of Medicine,  
Kanazawa Medical University,  
Ishikawa, JAPAN