

Purpose of Establishment of “Shuheio Ogita Fund”

Lymphatic malformations (formerly called “lymphangiomas”) are localized malformations of the lymphatic system, which normally appear by the age of five years old. Lymphatic malformations most frequently affect the neck and make breathing difficult by compressing the respiratory tract and trachea, causing the patients to death due to dyspnea. Although histologically benign, lymphatic malformations may extend to the surrounding tissues like a malignancy. Due to this, complete surgical excision without damage to surrounding vital structures and also without cosmetic problems was almost impossible. With incomplete excision, disease recurrence was very high. But surgical excision has been the treatment of choice for years as no appropriate replacement was available, placing a heavy psychological and economical burden on the patients.

In 1986 Dr. Shuheio Ogita, a pediatric surgeon of Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine, found OK-432 therapy, where OK-432 (specific medicine against lymphatic malformations) is injected into the cyst and it reduces the size of, or completely removes the lymphatic malformation. Since its initial use, OK-432 therapy has become highly commended as success stories increased and further research promoted its effect. OK-432 therapy soon became a standard treatment procedure for lymphatic malformations in Japan.

However, because OK-432 was not distributed outside Japan, the only way to receive therapy was if one traveled to Japan. In addition, expenses to receive the OK-432 therapy also required a full month of accommodations per session of treatment - full treatment requiring several sessions. Wanting to help children from abroad unable to receive the OK-432 therapy due to financial difficulties, Dr. Ogita established the “Little Carlos Fund” (named after the patient from which the fund was established) in September 1992 to help raise funds for these children.

Thereafter, as an objective to equally treat all children diagnosed with lymphatic malformations despite medical circumstances and financial problems, Dr. Ogita and the “Little Carlos Fund” started to assist patients of lymphatic malformations by undertaking the following procedures:

1. Disclosure of information on OK-432 therapy online
2. Offer of OK-432 (Picibanil) upon request

3. Leadership and assistance in education in treating lymphatic malformations

Step by step, Dr. Ogita's efforts paid off. Doctors and medical institutions from many countries began to support OK-432 therapy, and the number of patients able to get treatment in one's home country has been rising steadily. However, as of September 2003, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan are the only countries that OK-432 is distributed. More activities are required to change this course.

On April 21, 2003, Dr. Ogita died at a young age of 55. As the developer of OK-432 therapy, savior of many patients of lymphatic malformations, and great contributor to the world to pioneer the new treatment, Dr. Ogita held the faith that "efforts are to be done in order to make results of my research available to all the patients."

Commending the great achievements of the late Dr. Ogita, we have decided to continue to support patients of lymphatic malformations under the "Shuhei Ogita Fund" (formerly the "Little Carlos Fund"). Through the practice of the three undertakings mentioned above. We operate merely through donations from individuals and groups. As it is required to have trust in our organization and clear management in order to receive public support, we believed establishing ourselves as a Nonprofit Organization (NPO) would best suit our needs and purposes. As such, we plan to function responsibly with the aim of promoting health, welfare, medicine, and international cooperation.

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Non-Profit Organization	Shuhei Ogita Fund
President	Tokuko Ogita
Vice President	Kazuaki Tokiwa
Director	Fumio Kumagai
Director	Shigeru Fukase
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