Digestive Disease Center
Showa University Northern Yokohama Hospital
Since 2001

As a core hospital of the community, and as a leading international institution for research and education

Website: http://www.showa-ddc.com/

Main features of Digestive Disease Center

No borders between departments
Our flexible cooperation system between physicians and surgeons and the integrated electronic network system provide our patients with the best possible medical care.

The newest equipment for diagnosis and treatment
We have the state-of-the-art equipment and well-experienced staff, aiming at early detection of diseases and timely-and-less-invasive treatment.

Fulfilling education system
Actively we have conferences and endoscopic basic training programs for residents and students.

International training and global research
Showa University International Training center for Endoscopy and endoscopic surgery (SUITE), established together with Digestive Disease Center, has accepted many fellows and visiting doctors from around the world. And every year we have presentations at international conferences and give lectures and live demonstrations abroad.
Clinical Specialty of Digestive Disease Center (DDC)
We take care of all gastrointestinal diseases such as disorder of esophagus, stomach, small intestine, colon, liver, pancreas, and gallbladder.
Dr. Kudo (Chairman of DDC), Dr. Inoue (Professor), Dr. Ishida (Associate Professor), Dr. Okoshi (Associate Professor), 8 Assistant Professors, and 55 Lecturers see patients.
Many of them are qualified doctors and this is one of the reasons why we have a large practice.

Qualified doctors (brief and partial information)
Japan Gastroenterological Endoscopy Society
# of supervisory doctors/attending doctors/certifying physicians: 17
The Japanese Society of Gastroenterology
# of supervisory doctors/attending doctors: 22
The Japanese Society of Gastroenterological Surgery
# of supervisory doctors/attending doctors/certifying physicians and other qualified doctors: 11

Shin-ei Kudo (Short Bio)

Apr 2001 Deputy Director (~ Mar 2013)
Showa University Northern Yokohama Hospital (Japan)
Oct 2000 Professor and Chairman of Digestive Disease Center
Showa University Northern Yokohama Hospital (Japan)
Aug 2007 Permanent Emeritus Professor
Shanghai Fudan Hospital (China)
Apr 1985– Sep 2000 Chief of the Department of Surgery and Gastroenterology
Akita Red Cross Hospital (Japan)
Jun 1973– Mar 1985 Staff of the Department of Surgery
Niigata University, School of Medicine (Japan)
Early detection and timely treatment for colorectal cancer – headed by world-renowned Dr. Kudo

Chairman of Digestive Disease Center, Shin-ei Kudo is famous across the world for the early diagnosis and treatment for colorectal cancer with endoscopy.

**Diagnosis:**
For colorectal tumors we actively utilize Endoscopy (magnification x 450) that enables real-time tissue characterization. This novel in vivo imaging is as sensitive as histopathology results and getting a lot of attention from the world.

![Conventional endoscopy image](image1)
![With indigo carmine dye spraying](image2)
![Endoscopy image (Enlarged and deeply-stained nucleus can be seen)](image3)

**Treatment:**
ESD (endoscopic submucosal dissection) is greatly in the spotlight regarding the less invasive treatment for colorectal cancer. We started ESD in 2005 and it reached to about 600 cases as of December 2012. It was covered by insurance in April 2012 and increasing numbers of ESD case are expected. We are always making effort to refine the expertise and knowledge of our procedures.

![At a morning conference](image4)

![With high school students / a visiting doctor](image5)
Weight increase of laparoscopic surgery

Approximately 80 percent of colon cancer patients in our center are performed laparoscopic surgery. Since DDC has many certified surgeons accredited by the Japan Society for Endoscopic Surgery (JSGE), many patients visit our hospital not only from community hospitals but also from other university hospitals, medical institution in other parts of Japan.

Recently, in order to cope with the increasing patients expecting less invasive treatments or cosmetically better incisions, we have made some technological innovations in laparoscopic surgery. We perform super lower anterior resection and inter sphincteric resection (ISR) aiming at the ultimate operation for preserving defecation, and we have gained good results in laparoscopic assisted total colectomy for familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP), ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease.

Also, we are leading the development of new operative method such as Reduced Port Surgery and Single Port Surgery (TANKO), which contributes to the technical advancement in Japan.

As well as colon cancer, we have positively received many patients who need emergency procedures and/or highly malignant patients of all digestive organs and the percentage of laparoscopic surgery for those cases is increasing especially due to insurance cover’s establishment. Since the opening of our Center, we have been proud of skilled and competent doctors pursuing “the earlier detection and the earlier treatments with minimal invasion” and the top medical devices and imaging technologies.

POEM--Revolution of achalasia treatment  http://www.achalasia-poem.net/

A special team “POEM” for the treatment of esophageal achalasia belongs to Showa University International Training center for Endoscopy and endoscopic surgery (SUITE). Professor Haru (Haruhiro) Inoue and his team developed a novel and minimally invasive treatment for esophageal achalasia with no skin incision, with no chest pain. This technique is called POEM (per-oral endoscopic myotomy). POEM is an endoscopic therapy, but is equivalent or more effective procedure to conventional laparoscopic Heller myotomy.

POEM has been clinically applied to 312 cases (as of December 18, 2012) at Showa University Yokohama Northern Hospital. So far no major complications have been encountered, whereas high level of satisfaction has been shown from almost all patients. POEM has already been reported in many international conferences (DDW: Digestive Disease Week in Chicago 2009, New Orleans 2010, UEGW in London, et al). Prof. Inoue gave a lecture on POEM during SAGES (Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeon) annual meeting in Washington DC 2010. In 2012 postgraduate course and hands-on course of POEM were successfully done in SAGES meeting in San Diego.
Clinical Achievement

The medical treatment results in our Center, especially the numbers of endoscopic treatments in the colon (EMR, ESD and others) and in the colon surgery, occupies the high rank every year in Japan. As our Center favorably meets the expectation from community hospitals and affiliated hospitals, we can get the big fame and popularity among the people.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<tr>
<td>Examination</td>
<td>6828</td>
<td>6994</td>
<td>7327</td>
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<td>Detected early stage cancer (Tis, T1)</td>
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<td>325</td>
<td>393</td>
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<tr>
<td>EMR</td>
<td>749</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESD</td>
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Lower GI examination and endoscopic treatment

Colon surgery

Upper GI examination

Upper GI surgery