

## 産婦人科における内診台と医師-患者の相互行為(2) : 内診台上のカーテンを中心に

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A Study of Gynecological Internal Examination Tables/Chairs:  
Outpatient Clinics in Japan (2)  
—Curtain over the tables

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“Internal examination Chairs, beds, or tables” (*Naishin-dai*) are commonly used in obstetrics for internal examinations in Japan. Typically, the common visual field between the doctor and the pregnant woman (pw) is blocked by a curtain. Because of this visual obstacle, the doctor announces in advance what he is going to carry next, and the pw claims her comprehension aloud. Such medical examination continues for a short time, and the pw asks any questions she might have after the internal examination is complete. The doctor will always tend to close the curtain if one is installed and provides the pw with explanation while using an ultrasound monitor.

If there is no curtain present on such occasions, the results of the medical examination are explained on the spot, as the procedure continues, or another health professional joins and the interaction develops into a triad. Therefore, it is necessary to offer patients a preliminary announcement of how medical explanation will be provided if the curtain is present. Thus, the curtain, in an internal examination, plays an active role in the interaction between x and x.