

Medical Preparedness for Next Large Eruptions of Sakurajima Volcano

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I will present an estimation of the damage due to next large eruptions of Sakurajima volcano that are as large as Sakurajima Taisho eruption in 1914 and possible emergency medical responses against the disasters caused by that kind of eruptions. While Sakurajima volcano in Kagoshima, Japan is erupting in small-scale Vulcanian style more than a thousand times a year in recent years, it has generated a large-scale eruption including the formation of Plinian plumes with 8000 meters in height and emissions of pyroclastic materials with styles of pyroclastic flows and lava flows in 1914, which is often called "Taisho eruption" in Japan because it has occurred in the era of Taisho emperor. The Taisho eruption resulted in 58 victims and the loss of more than 2,000 buildings partly due to an accompanying earthquake with the magnitude of 6.1 occurred in Kagoshima area on the same day as the beginning of the main phase of the eruption. I assume that the same phenomena as Taisho eruption would occur in the present state, of populations, medical resources and the distributions of medical and evacuation facilities in Kagoshima city and the surrounding area and estimate the possible responses to the volcanic disasters focusing on emergency medical support.