

Japan's Shimadzu Future Innovation Fund invests in cardiac healthcare startup A-wave

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For developing a home monitoring system aimed at reducing hospital readmissions for patients with chronic heart failure



Japan-based Shimadzu Corporation has invested in A-wave Inc., a startup originating from The University of Osaka, through its Corporate Venture Capital (CVC) fund, “Shimadzu Future Innovation Fund” (Shimadzu FIF). A-wave is developing a home monitoring system aimed at reducing hospital readmissions for patients with chronic heart failure.

As populations age, the number of heart failure patients is increasing globally. Heart failure patients frequently experience readmissions due to worsening symptoms after discharge, leading to a decline in quality of life (QoL) and increased medical costs. While early detection of worsening symptoms is important to prevent readmission, it remains challenging because patients need to visit hospitals for tests such as blood tests and X-rays.

A-wave is developing a wristwatch-type wearable device that enables discharged patients to easily measure their heart sounds at home, as well as a system that allows doctors to remotely access the data. By enabling early detection of signs of worsening heart failure and notifying doctors of changes in patient condition, these technologies are expected to support timely medical intervention and help reduce the risk of readmission.

Shimadzu has supported the diagnosis and treatment of cardiac diseases using X-ray imaging equipment. Through this investment, the company will support A-wave's business and aim to expand its senior healthcare business by providing prognosis management by leveraging A-wave's products.