



1st World Congress on Healthy Ageing, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

ABSTRACT 239

MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS' SUPPORTS OF HOME CARE FOR TERMINAL DEMENTIA PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

Aya SEIKE(Presenter)¹, Akinori TAKEDA¹, Takashi SAKURAI¹, Hedetoshi ENDO¹,
Yukihiko WASHIMI¹, Kenji TOBA¹

1) National Center for Geriatric and Gerontology, The Center for Comprehensive Care and Research on Memory Disorders, JAPAN

【 Back ground 】

In JAPAN, governmental national policies controlling medical expense have promoted home care. However, this has created “dementia refugees” with no place for recuperation. No research has focused on patients’ and families’ needs, supporting their end of life styles.

【 Objects 】

This presentation examines how medical social workers(SW) can support of home care and life styles for terminal dementia patients and their families.

【 Methods 】

The research subjects were 45 terminal dementia patients discharged from the critical care and mental hospitals, the long-term care health facilities from May 2009 to May 2011. We extracted statistically analyzed data of patients’ mental and physical state, their families’ needs , SWs’ supports from their case and clinical records. And the affiliation of SWs were limited to the institutions of home medical care.

【 Results 】

About patients’ mental state, the mean scores of the MMSE were 11.3 ± 4.2 , and ,about their physical state, the mean scores of the Barthel Index were 63.2 ± 7.3 . With except for their dementia, their main disease had the high rate of a cerebrovascular disease(40.0%), cardiac disease(26.6%), cancer(17.7%). And, they used the doctors’ home visiting at a high rate(93.3%). Then, among their families’ responses(N=55),60.0% wanted someone to listen to them,51.0% needed advice about using the welfare system,27.3% required prognostic explanation. Analysis of SWs’ supports for families, a significantly high ratio was occupied by SW explanation of social support systems, advice on methods of using them, and mobilizing their motivation to solve problems.($p < .01$, χ^2 -test).

【 Conclusions 】

In supports of home care for terminal dementia patients and families, SWs had constructed the relationships and support systems while aiding their autonomy. However, the Japanese public health system does reimburse these activities slightly. Future research must address the promulgation and standardization support systems that everyone can freely access.