

A POPULATION-BASED FACT-FINDING INQUIRY ON MANAGEMENT OF VOIDING DYSFUNCTION IN THE INSTITUTIONALIZED ELDERLY AT NURSING HOMES: A QUESTIONNAIRE AND INTERVIEW SURVEY

Aims of Study

A population-based fact-finding inquiry was made in the institutionalized elderly at nursing homes, in order to clarify the points at issue concerning the management of voiding dysfunction in Japan.

Methods

A questionnaire survey was made for 13,466 elderly people (3,460 males and 10,006 females) institutionalized at 160 nursing homes in Aichi prefecture, Japan. In addition, an interview survey by medical specialists (6 urologists and one geriatrician) was performed for 1,664 institutionalized elderly people (367 males and 1,297 females) with mean age of 84 years in 21 nursing homes. In the interview survey, the medical specialists visited the institutions and made a direct consultation and interview of each elderly person. The survey was made focused on the management of voiding dysfunction and the practical problems at nursing homes.

Results

Although the elderly managed by an indwelling Foley catheter were few (1.2%), 51.2 % of the elderly in nursing homes wore diapers. Intermittent catheterization was rarely performed (0.15%). The majority of the management of voiding dysfunction by an indwelling Foley catheter (53.1%) or diaper (77.1%) had been started before the institutionalization to the nursing homes. Only 3.2 % of the elderly wearing diapers consulted to medical doctors for voiding dysfunction. On the interview survey, it was found that etiological classification of urinary incontinence was seldom made. The medical specialists tried to assess the types of incontinence based on the consultation and interview in the 859 elderly people, and the most common type of urinary incontinence diagnosed in 482 individuals was functional incontinence associated with impaired ADL (activities of daily living) and/or dementia. Other types of incontinence diagnosed comprised urge incontinence in 165, overflow incontinence in 62, stress incontinence in 15 and mixed incontinence in 10, but it was difficult to give an appropriate diagnosis in 125. It was revealed that overflow incontinence usually requiring medical treatment was overlooked in considerable number of the elderly. Medical specialists assessed that indwelling Foley catheters and diapers could be removed in about 40 % and 30% of the elderly managed by either way, respectively.

Conclusions

It is concluded that the management of voiding dysfunction at nursing homes in Japan is insufficient and that construction of close network among care givers, nurses, general physicians, medical specialists and governments, and operation for standardization in management of voiding dysfunction will be urgently necessary to provide the management of better quality.