

原著

高齢配偶者のターミナルケアにおけるソーシャルサポートの一考察(第1報) - 在宅で夫を看取った妻へのソーシャルサポート -

人見裕江¹⁾ 小柴順子¹⁾ 菊井和子¹⁾ 中西啓子²⁾ 影本妙子²⁾ 塚原貴子²⁾

川崎医療福祉大学 医療福祉学部 保健看護学科¹⁾

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Consideration on Social-support-system for the Elderly Spouse Whose Partner Is in Terminal Stage - Social-support-system for the Wife Who Gave Terminal Care for Her Husband in Their Home -

Hiroe HITOMI¹⁾, Yoriko KOSHIBA¹⁾, Kazuko KIKUI¹⁾, Keiko NAKANISHI²⁾, Taeko KAGEMOTO²⁾ and Takako TSUKAHARA²⁾

Department of Nursing Faculty of Medical Welfare Kurashiki, 701-01, Japan¹⁾

Department of Nursing Kurashiki, 701-01, Japan²⁾

Department of Medical Social Work Faculty of Medical Welfare Kurashiki, 701-01, Japan³⁾

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Abstract

Forty families that had lost a family member older than 65 were interviewed. In 13 cases the surviving spouse had cared for the partner throughout the illness. In only one case did the death occur in the home. We attempted to ascertain what sort of support system the patients had prior to their death. Only one subject was cared for in the home because there are many difficult

problems to overcome when caring for a patient in the home, especially if they are elderly. The one patient who died at home had expressed a strong desire to die in his own home and his wife and other family members had wanted to grant him his final wish. He received care by doctors from various hospitals in the area including care for his broken femur. When he was no longer able to go out of the home to receive treatment, he was treated in the home by the family physician, and was cared by family members and friends and received support from community.

要約

高齢者と死別した家族の面接事例40例中、高齢配偶者が看取った13例で、最後まで在宅で看取ることのできた事例は1例であった。この13例と在宅での看取り1例のターミナルケアにおけるソーシャルサポートの現状と今後の課題について分析した。その結果、在宅で看取るには、本人の自己決定と家族の理解が重要な鍵となっていた。この事例では、本人の意思決定が明確であり、ターミナルステージの各段階で意思が貫かれ、本人の意思を尊重したそれに添った看取り、ターミナルケアがなされるとともに、悲嘆作業がなされているといえる。公的なソーシャルサポートは本人の意思を尊重した主とした医療者間の連携であり、また対象の地域とのつながりの強さと身内のソーシャルサポートの存在が強く認められた。
