### 原著

## 岡山県下における遷延性意識障害患者の療養 生活と介護者の現状

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2000-12-12 00:00:00+09受理

# An Investigation on the Status of Patients in a Prolonged Vegetative State and their Caregivers in Okayama

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(Accepted 2000-12-12 00:00:00+09)

Key words: prolonged vegetative state, caregivers

### **Abstract**

To clarify the status of patients in a prolonged vegetative state and the psychological state of their caregivers, an investigation was carried out in Okayama prefecture. The Following results were obtained. 1. There were 659 patients in a prolonged vegetative state in Okayama prefecture. Many of them were aged, average age of 68 years and 7 month, and 80.2% of the total had been admitted to hospitals. 2. About 60% of the cases were due to cerebral vascular diseases, and 19.8% were from brain damage due to traffic accidents. 3. Only a small number were being cared for at home for extended periods. This suggests that it is very difficult for families to give care at home. 4. In cases where a physician had diagnosed the coma as permanent, 30%– 40% of the families stated that they felt the symptoms of the patients were changing and occasionally improving. I in such cases recovery or partial recovery. The families had expectations for this is the same as previous sentence. About 66% of the families replied that their efforts had been sustaind by a feeling of responsibility as a family member, and 24% replied it had been sustaind by love for the patients. The families also believed it was meaningful that the patients be kept alive and their caregiving be continued.

#### 要 約

遷延性意識障害患者の実態と家族のケアの際の心理状態を明確にするために、岡山県内にお

いて遷延性意識障害患者のケアをしている家族に対して、生活実態に関する調査を行い、以下の結果を得た. 1. 岡山県内には、少なくとも659人の意識障害患者が療養し、それらの平均年齢は68歳7カ月であり、その80.2%が入院療養であった. 2. 意識障害の原因は脳血管障害によるものが約60.0%、次いで交通事故による脳障害が約20.0%であった. 3. 在宅で介護を受ける患者は19.8%と少なかった. 1患者当たりの介護者数は少ないため介護時間が長くなっており、在宅介護の困難性が伺われた. 4. 医師によって昏睡状態であり、回復の可能性が乏しいと診断された症例でも30%~40%の家族は、症状の変化と回復の徴候が感じられると述べていた. 医学的には回復不可能とされる場合でも、家族にとってはわずかな症状の変化が改善への期待につながっていた. 患者に対する介護を支える心理的要因としては、「家族としての責任」と答える家族が約66%、「患者に対する愛情」と答える家族が約24%見られた. これらの結果から、医師が回復不可能とみなした患者に対しても、家族は患者を生かし続ける意味を見出しケアを継続していることが伺えた。