Factors influencing the decision for percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy by patients’ families on behalf of elderly patients without self-determination ability

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Abstract

When patients become unable to eat enough because of worsening dysphagia, their attending doctors often ask the patients whether percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) is acceptable. In particular, in the case of elderly patients with impaired self-determination, their families are required to determine whether the patients should receive PEG. On Ward B of Hospital A, most patients undergoing PEG have no self-determination ability; therefore, their families are required to determine whether PEG would be acceptable to the patients. In the present study, we focused on the process in which patients’ families decided PEG instead of patients. We analyzed the data obtained from semi-structural interviews of the families of three inpatients on Ward B. Then we identified factors that could be classified into six categories. These factors are expected to influence patients’ families who are required to select PEG on behalf of patients. The six categories were as follows: (i) acceptance of PEG and conflicted about its acceptance; (ii) understanding PEG and support to determine its selection; (iii) factors influencing the selection of PEG on behalf of patients; (iv) agreement to make decisions on behalf of patients; (v) relieved doubts about PEG; and (vi) seeking quality of life with PEG. Tottori J. Clin. Res. 4(2), 148-155, 2011

Key Words: 胃瘍造設，代理判断，家族の思い，半構造化面接；percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG)，determination on behalf of patients, thoughts of families, semi-structural interviews

I. はじめに
A 病院 B 病棟は老健施設からの高齢者の入院が主であり，意思決定能力のない患者が多い。また，患者を支える家族(ケアパーソン)である