Spiritual Care for Patients in the Assertive Outreach Team: Their Role Expected by Other Team Staff in the AOT

Akiko Tanaka1)* and Motoko Hata1)
1) Department of Psychiatry, NHO Tottori Medical Center

*Correspondence: 〒689-0203 鳥取市三津 876 番地 鳥取医療センター心理事務室

Abstract

Assertive community treatment (ACT) has attracted a great deal of attention as one of the services that support the daily life of patients with severe mental disorders. ACT is also called a "transdisciplinary team", because team members are required to cooperate beyond the range of the original role that they play as respective professionals, thus being different from a general multidisciplinary team, where the members play their original role as respective professionals. The assertive outreach team (AOT) in Hospital A, which was organized based on the principles of ACT or a transdisciplinary team, launched in October 2009. The AOT consisted of psychiatrists, nurses, psychiatric social workers and clinical psychologists. The present study focused on the role of clinical psychologists in the activity of the AOT. The first part of our study was to clarify their role expected by other team members in the AOT. To address this, semi-structured interviews were conducted for the staff of the AOT in Hospital A. The results indicated that clinical psychologists should receive consultations from other team members and give advice to other team members in terms of the

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