ACUTE CARE HOSPITAL MORTALITY OF SCHIZOPHRENIC PATIENTS

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BACKGROUND/AIMS: Previous studies have reported that schizophrenic patients have an increased mortality compared to that of the general population. However, few studies investigated acute care hospital mortality in these patients. To determine hospital mortality and its risk factors in schizophrenic patients admitted to an acute care hospital, we performed a retrospective analysis of inpatient registry in an acute care hospital for all schizophrenic patients.

METHODS: We reviewed a total of 1108 schizophrenic patients during an 18-year period (from January1987 to December 2004) in an acute care teaching hospital in Okinawa, Japan. We determined hospital mortality and analyzed risk factors associated with mortality and investigated causes of death.

RESULTS: We identified 55 deaths among a total of 1108 schizophrenic patients. Hospital mortality of schizophrenic patients was 5.0% with 95% confidence interval (CI) of 3.8-6.4%, while it was 4.0% (95% CI; 3.9-4.1%) in the non-schizophrenic patient population. Significant risk factors for increased mortality in schizophrenic patients included malignant neoplasm with an odds ratio (OR) of 12.9, cardiovascular disease (OR 2.6), and admission through the emergency department (OR 3.3). Eighty-two percent of the deaths were from natural causes and 18% were from non-natural causes (suicides, homicides, or accidents).

DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS: Hospital mortality among schizophrenic patients admitted to an acute care hospital in Japan was 5.0%. Natural causes comprised about 80% of all deaths and included malignant neoplasm and cardiovascular disease. We may need better preventive medicine service for schizophrenic patients.

Key words: Schizophrenia; Hospital mortality; General Hospital