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Risk communication factors in activities of daily livings for elderly people with Dementia ~ The view points from family of elderly people with Dementia ~

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Introduction: It is not rare that a patient whom judged high-risk and has been assigned to limited activities can actually perform alone. As a method to solve such a dilemma, we researched about risk recognition families of elderly people with Dementia by using the original Risk Communication Evaluation (RCE).

Objectives: The purpose of this study is to investigate risk factors in activities of daily living (ADL) for elderly people with Dementia by RCE.

Methods: We interviewed families of elderly people with Dementia to know what kind of risks family member think about. Subjects were 18 persons living in Japan, all of them related to people with Dementia. To analyze the interview data, we used the qualitative inductive analysis which shows some important risk categories.

Results: We found 228 items of risk. They consists of 15 characteristic risk categories in everyday life of elderly with Dementia listed here from most to least {1)Moving(49 items) , 2)Communication(42), 3)How to use free time (25), 4)Feeding(15), 5)Sanitary(14), 6)Clothing(13), 7)Clear up(12), 8)Cooking(11), 9)Health care(9), 10)Sleeping(7), 11)Operation of electric appliances(7), 12)Money management(7) , 13)Toileting(6),14)Shopping(4), 15)Others(9) }. Some category examples would be 1) moving [not looking both ways, when crossing street.], [driving in spite of being forbidden.], [becoming lost], [enters freely without permission a neighboring house.], etc. 2) Communication [forgets a familiar person's face and name], [telephones frequently.], [unwilling to meet people.], etc. 3) How to use free time [has forgotten to extinguish the candle of a Buddhist altar.], 4) Feeding [eat's repeatedly, forgets having eaten.] , etc.

Conclusion: So far we have experienced positive results in that the 228 items of risk factors can improve communication between OT, elderly with Dementia and their family, in order to reduce the ADL's risk.

Contribution to the practice: We found that better communication is needed, especially when the viewpoint of a patient varies from OT or family. And RCE will be an effective method that facilitates communication helping to reduce some risks in patient ADL.