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A new neuropsychological assessment as an evaluation of occupational therapy for the patients with traumatic brain injury in emergency hospital

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Past traffic accident patients have a traumatic brain injury in many cases. The traumatic brain injury people show a rapid improvement of body functions one month after the injury. On the other hand, in these patients, there is a difficult person at the self-supporting life. And, it might be difficult to return to the office and the school. This is the problem on daily life by the high-order brain function trouble. Especially, this problem appears as a disturbance of attention at the acute stage. The disturbance of attention is earlier problem than the memory disturbance. It is thought that the disturbance of attention in the acute stage becomes a clue to the daily life problem.

The purpose of this research is that the relation between the disturbance of attention assessment and daily life assessment is examined in the acute stage.

Object patients were 30 people who had obtained agreement hospitalized from 2007 to 2009 in the acute hospital. The level of the traumatic brain injury was serious from moderate degree, and the GCS score was 12 points or less. We chose handy attention assessment. The items were Digit span (DS), Tapping span (TS), and Ponsford's and Kinsella's Attention rating scale (ARS). The correlation of these evaluation and Functional Independence Measure (FIM) was examined by using the path analysis. The evaluation period was assumed from the hospitalization 2nd week to the 6th week.

As a result, the correlation of ARS, TS, and FIM was always shown about 2-6 weeks. DS influenced TS. However, the validity of DS was not shown as evaluation for 6 weeks.

For the people who received the injury, the observational and the visual assessment are always effective after two weeks. And the aural attention assessment influenced the visual attention assessment.

In the execution of the occupational therapy in the acute hospital, the result of the present study is useful for the establishment of the evaluation instrument. Moreover, effective occupational means for acute injury people was not the aural things but the observational and the visual things.