

Title	介護当事者の意思決定プロセス 意思確認が困難な高齢者への経管栄養を事例として
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論文題目	介護当事者の意思決定プロセス—意思確認が困難な高齢者への経管栄養を事例として—		
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論文の内容の要旨

Background:

The development of medical technology has extended life expectancy, but it has also resulted in a social problem with the rapid increase of the elderly worldwide. Japan is no exception and the Japanese society often recommends the elderly to choose a 'natural death' when it becomes difficult for them to eat orally with declining capabilities for making decisions. Caregivers can, however, opt for tube feeding to be administered to the elderly who have little time to live so that they can spend more time with their close persons.

Purpose:

The purpose of this research is to clarify the decision-making process of caregivers involved in the process of introducing the tube feeding to elderly persons with cognitive impairment by focusing on the relationships between the elderly and their caregivers at their everyday life. Moreover this study considers the processes by which gastrostomy comes to be socially seen as an issue.

Method:

A fieldwork survey was carried out for three cases at the place of each elderly's daily life. The decision-making process of caregivers for placing the tube feeding was investigated through a series of semi-structured and informal interviews. Field notes were taken to record the relationship between each elderly person and caregivers. This research describes the ethnography of the collected data, analyzes it by focusing in three phases: the first phase in which caregivers became to know of gastrostomy and made decisions, the second phase in which elderly persons and caregivers chose to live with tube feeding, the third phase in which the results of analysis on the decision-making process are synthesized.

Results & Discussion:

First, caregivers have had two different perceptions of gastrostomy, as a *tool* and as *something to be socially established* through the interaction with the situation in which they became to know of gastrostomy and through their unique experience. Gastrostomy was understood to be futile for elderly and inflict pain on them. Thereby gastrostomy had been excluded from the placing to elderly by caregivers. Second, however the caregivers of the three cases selected gastrostomy for the elderly by the avoidance of meaning socially established. This study discovered the factor of the avoidance. It was based on the relationship between the elderly and caregivers, and is named 'irreplaceable factor.' Finally, this research caught that an effort of training of swallowing function and reopening oral intake is a work with the difficulties and anxiety for caregivers. Although social policy encourages the swallow training for reopening oral intake, it loses touch with the real life of elderly and caregivers.

Conclusion:

Theoretical contribution: firstly, this study re-organized the decision making process of gastrostomy to elderly which has been discussed in various fields as decision-making theory. Secondly, this study led to *irreplaceable factor*, a concept of the factor of decision-making based on the relationship, which has not been discussed. Lastly, the decision-making process of caregivers was captured as the interaction between individual experience and social context. Practical contribution: for caregivers, practice of caregivers who selected tube feeding is to contribute to the solution of the problem of caregivers who are puzzled to decide placing tube feeding. And for healthcare professional, it is to contribute to understand the medical technology in daily life by presentation of the decision-making process in daily life.

Keywords: caregiver, tube feeding, decision-making, relationship, ethnography

論文審査の結果の要旨

本研究は、意思疎通が難しく、経口摂取困難となった高齢者への水分・栄養の補給をどうするか判断しなければならない介護当事者の意思決定プロセスを、社会状況との関わりと高齢者本人との関係性において明らかにしている。主たる介護者の意思決定プロセスに焦点を当てつつ、(1) 意思の疎通が困難な高齢者への水分・栄養補給はどのような社会状況において問題化され、どのような社会状況を生み出しているのか、(2) 主たる介護者は、どのような社会状況との関わりにおいて水分・栄養補給の方法（とりわけ胃瘻）を知り、高齢者本人との関係性の中でどのように人工的な水分・栄養補給を導入する判断を行っているのかを考察している。

本研究は胃瘻が社会的に問題となる中、3件の事例を丁寧に調査し、容易には知り得ない本人や家族の考え方や受け止め方を緻密に記述した点に新規性が認められる。近年、胃瘻造設が不要

ではないかとの厳しい意見も散見されるが、本研究は胃瘻が慎重に造設されており、長い意思決定の過程で関係者が納得して胃瘻を受け入れていること、またその結果は本人および関係者らにとって好ましいものであったことを報告している。胃瘻造設の是非を抽象的に論じるのではなく、造設に至る過程を丹念に調べることで胃瘻はあくまでも介護の手段であること、主題は本人の生き方であり、その人の望む生活を介護する人や周囲の者が支援するなかで胃瘻が適切に用いられ得ることを示した功績は大きい。

胃瘻は看護・介護に関するテーマだが、従来の研究は思弁的なものに留まっており、具体的に実践に役立つような知見はなかった。本研究は実際に胃瘻造設を決めた本人・家族に目を向け、これらの人達の視点で意思決定の過程を記述しており、より実態に即した知見をもたらしている。学術的に貴重な知見をもたらしたばかりでなく、実務的にも重要な示唆を与えている。

以上、本論文は意思確認が困難な高齢者への経管栄養について、介護当事者らの意思決定過程を明らかにしたものであり、学術的に貢献するところが大きい。よって博士（知識科学）の学位論文として十分価値あるものと認めた。