

Abstract Submission for ILC 2013

Surgery

ILC2013-1286

SURGICAL APPROACH TO THE DISABILITY-RELATED PROBLEMS SEEN ON EX-PATIENTS OF LEPROSY IN A COMMUNITY-BASED CLINIC

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Preferred Presentation Method: Eposter only

Would you like to be considered for the Young Scientist Award?: No

Introduction: Our clinic was founded 8 years ago, having particular purpose to take care of ex-patients of HD (Hansen's disease) along with local citizen in a community-based clinic. The specialties of our clinic are dermatology, internal medicine and plastic surgery, having each doctor in charge of.

Methods: Based on the medical records in our clinic, we present some surgical procedures which were done to improve the QOL of ex-patients having severely impaired face or limbs. Wound care measures we usually take for the longstanding ulcers on severely deformed hands or feet are reviewed as the examples for further discussion for more effective wound care.

Results: 1) Their ages are in the range of 50ys and 80s, on the average 71.6 years old; 10 years younger than the people living in sanatoria.

2) HD-related disability rate is very high. 70%, 67.4%, 93% of their face, anterior part of eyes, upper and/or lower limbs respectively had grade1 or 2 disabilities. They frequently need surgical, ophthalmological care, or management of chronic neuritis.

3) Treatment of ulcers on anesthetic limbs usually takes long time for complete cure and neoplasm may develop on these ulcers. We must be vigilant whether they are malignant or not. Our surgical practices for tumor or tumor-like neoplasm developed on the long standing ulcers of severely destroyed feet were successful using carefully adapted devices.

4) Although they have received various kind of reconstructive surgery long before, they need another amendment along with their aging process. Plastic surgeries for redundant eye lid and transplant surgery for atrophic thenar muscle improved their QOL and acquired good appearance.

5) Now our original purpose was achieved and the treatment of people having past history of HD has been well integrated to the community-based medicine.

Conclusion: Effective plastic surgeries could decrease the difficulties and increase the activities in their daily lives. Through usual encounter in our out patients clinic, friendly communications between ex-patients and local citizens has been emerging and growing.

Supplemental report: IDEA-Japan, ex-patients' association, Buddhists' group and members of MSW etc; they have done a great cooperation with us in the 3rd Workshop on Sentinel Surveillance for Drug-Resistance in Leprosy held in Tokyo (WHO Global Leprosy Program; Nov. 2010).

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared