Participation of Laryngectomized Patients in Self Help Groups in Japan — Relationship with Subject Characteristics —

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Objective
This study aimed to reveal the relationship between participation of laryngectomized patients in self help groups (SHG) in Japan and subject characteristics from before surgery to 1 year after discharge.

Methods
- 38 patients who underwent total laryngectomy and responded to a questionnaire survey regarding registration and participation in the SHG.
- The questionnaire was administered before and 3, 6, and 12 months after hospital discharge.
- Survey items: participation in SHG, and reasons if not participating, age, sex, treatment methods, employment, status before treatments and after discharge, participation in SHG, communication with other people in the last month, and participation in community activities after discharge.
- Patients were divided into 2 groups
  - “Participating group”
    - The patients who had an experience of participating in SHG within 1 year since discharge.
  - “Non-participating group”
    - The patients who had never participated in SHG.
- We calculated descriptive statistics of each group by basic attribute, and overviewed trends by comparing the data of each group.
- This study was approved by the Ethics Committees of the university which the author belongs.

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey Items</th>
<th>Total (N=38)</th>
<th>Participating group</th>
<th>Non-Participating group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
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<td>Sex</td>
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<td>Employment</td>
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<td>Living with family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in SHG before surgery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in community activities</td>
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<td>Communication with other people</td>
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Discussions
- Laryngectomized patients not participating in SHG after discharge are likely to have a less relation ship with other people in a workplace or local area which they had before surgery compared with that of the patients participating in SHG.
- SHG would be remarkably useful for laryngectomized patients who lost interaction with the society which they had before surgery. Furthermore, participation in SHG would be helpful for laryngectomized patients to engage in general social activities.
- It is important for medical professionals to assess living conditions of each laryngectomized patient before surgery, and assess the possibility that they have less social interaction after discharge. In addition, for patients who are likely to lose interaction with the society, it is important to make an effort actively to connect these patients with SHG before discharge based on the will of patients.

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