

Survey of Candidates for Psychiatric Clinical Trials Recruited by Advertisements

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Abstract : In psychiatric clinical trials, advertisements are often used to recruit the candidates. In our department of psychiatry, multiple clinical trials for different diseases were simultaneously performed and some of them used advertisement as a tool to recruit their candidates and the first contact person of such subjects was therefore the investigator instead of the clinical research coordinator (CRC). In this study, the visit rate to our hospital, the entry rate to the clinical trials, and the follow-up survey findings were investigated for all candidates recruited by advertisements. The Department of Psychiatry of Fukuoka University Hospital performed 5 clinical trials during the 5-year period from 2002 to 2006. The visit rate to our hospital after making an appointment by phone was 69% and the entry rate among them was 50%. The candidates who could enter the trials showed a significantly ($p < 0.05$) short duration from the time that the candidates phoned the call-center in comparison to those who could not enter the trials. Among the 19 candidates who could not enter the clinical trial, 8 candidates eventually entered other clinical trials (final entry rate : 71%) while 4 candidates only received ordinary treatments. In this study, the candidates wishing for an early visit to hospital had optimal conditions to enter the clinical trials. One advantage for performing multiple clinical trials simultaneously is that non-entry candidates can possibly enter other clinical trials. Because a psychiatrist instead of CRC is a first person to contact to the recruited candidates, other types of therapeutic selection, such as other clinical trials and better medical treatment can be offered to the candidates recruited by advertisements, when such individuals do not enter the desired clinical trial.