

Clinical Features of Children and Adolescent Outpatients Who Refuse to Attend School

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Abstract : In recent years the problem of children and adolescents who refuse to attend school has attracted a lot of attention. We conducted a survey to characterize the clinical features of children and adolescents who refuse to attend school as their chief psychiatric complaint. A total of 491 children and adolescent outpatients aged from 2 to 20 visited the Kokorono clinic in Iizuka during the 2-year and 6 month period from April 1, 2001 to September 30, 2003. A total of 148 outpatients met the criteria for refusing to attend school. The results were as follows : 1) The percentage of outpatients who refused to attend school as their chief psychiatric complaint comprised 30% of all outpatients. 2) The number of outpatients who refused to attend school tended to increase during the developmental periods of prepuberty and puberty. 3) Most of these patients were referred to our clinic directly by the school that such patients attended. 4) The method of treatment consisted of a combination of various treatments. 5) The mean period of treatment was comparatively short. 6) As a result of such treatments, most patients tended to show an improvement in their symptoms.

Key words : Children and Adolescents Psychiatry, Outpatients, Non-attendance at school