

Clinical Features of Adolescent Patients Who Manifested an Alternating Personality.

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Abstract : In recent years Multiple Personality Disorder (MPD) has attracted a lot of attention. We conducted a survey to characterize the clinical features of adolescents with alternating personalities. A total of 465 children and adolescent outpatients aged less than 20 visited Fukuoka University Hospital from April 1999 to March 2003. A total of 7 outpatients met the criteria for MPD. The results were as follows : 1) Five cases were diagnosed to have Dissociative Disorders while the other two cases had Depersonalization-Derealization Syndrome and Schizophrenia. 2) The five cases who were diagnosed to have Dissociative Disorders tended to have emotionally experienced an insufficient relationship with either other children and as a children with their parents. 3) The host personality recognized alternating personalities. 4) The role of such symptoms was that the alternating personalities protected the host personality from residual traumatic events while supporting him and allowing him to express his anger, loneliness and bitterness. 5) Supportive psychotherapy based on psychodynamic psychiatry has been effective for adolescents with alternating personalities. 6) It is therefore important that therapists clearly understand the role of an alternate personality when treating such patients.

Key words : Adolescent psychiatry, multiple personality disorder(MPD)alternating personality