

The Actual Situation of Suicidal Patients Admitted to the Emergency and Critical Care Center of Fukuoka University Hospital Preliminary Investigation (April 2002 to March 2006)

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Abstract : The authors investigated the actual situation of suicidal patients who presented at the emergency and critical care center from April 2002 to March 2006 ; including age, gender, date of their admission, method of suicide attempt, outcome, psychiatric medical history, whether there was a request for a psychiatrist(consultation) at each hospitalization or not, and the psychiatric diagnosis. There were 301 suicidal patients, who had attempted suicide and been transported to this center, during this period. Of those 301, 81 suicidal patients died due to suicide in spite of receiving medical care, while 220 survived at the point of discharge. Of all the suicidal patients, those in their 20's were the most prevalent and the ratio of the males and females was almost even. However among the suicides(actual deaths), males were much more common(the male to female ratio was almost two to one), and middle-aged males (30's-50's) were dominant. Among survivors, females in their 20's were the most common and females namely 30% more than males. As to the methods of suicide employed, the ingestion of drugs and poisons (52%) was the most common, followed by jumping from a high place (20%), and hanging (16%), cutting or piercing themselves with a sharp instrument (10%) in order of frequency. Concerning the date of their admission, Monday was the most prevalent day of the week, and January, February, and August were the most common months. We found out that 80% of the suicidal patients who had psychiatric evaluations before suicide attempts and 84% of those who underwent them after suicide attempts were offered continuous psychiatric treatments after discharge. We should psychiatrically evaluate as many suicidal patients as possible during their hospitalization so that we can provide appropriate psychiatric treatments for them.

Key words : Suicide Attempt, Emergency and Critical Care Center, Consultation, Psychiatric Treatment, Suicide Prevention