

— 臨床 —

COVID-19 感染症下での介護保険施設における歯科訪問診療の中断が肺炎の発症に与える影響について

伊藤加代子¹⁾, 落合勇人²⁾, 阿志賀大和³⁾, 林 宏和⁴⁾, 飯泉智子⁵⁾, 鈴木 拓²⁾, 道見 登⁶⁾, 花形哲夫⁷⁾, Sirima Kulvanich²⁾, 那小屋公太²⁾, 渡邊賢礼⁸⁾, 真柄 仁⁹⁾, 辻村恭憲²⁾, 井上 誠^{1,2,9)}

¹⁾ 新潟大学医歯学総合病院 口腔リハビリテーション科 (主任教授: 井上 誠)

²⁾ 新潟大学大学院医歯学総合研究科 摂食嚥下リハビリテーション学分野 (主任教授: 井上 誠)

³⁾ 国際医療福祉大学 成田保健医療学部 言語聴覚学科

⁴⁾ 林歯科医院

⁵⁾ 北海道医療大学 リハビリテーション科学部 言語聴覚療法学科

⁶⁾ 新潟医療センター歯科

⁷⁾ 花形歯科医院

⁸⁾ 昭和大学歯学部スペシャルニーズ口腔医学講座口腔衛生学部門

⁹⁾ 新潟大学医歯学総合病院 摂食嚥下機能回復部 (主任教授: 井上 誠)

Effect of COVID-19-related interruption of visiting dental services on pneumonia in nursing home residents

Kayoko Ito¹⁾, Yuto Ochiai²⁾, Hirokazu Ashiga³⁾, Hirokazu Hayashi⁴⁾, Tomoko Iizumi⁵⁾, Taku Suzuki²⁾, Noboru Michimi⁶⁾, Tetsuo Hanagata⁷⁾, Sirima Kulvanich²⁾, Kouta Nagoya²⁾, Masahiro Watanabe⁸⁾, Jin Magara⁹⁾, Takanori Tsujimura²⁾, Makoto Inoue^{1,2,9)}

¹⁾ Oral Rehabilitation, Niigata University Medical and Dental Hospital (Chief: Prof. Makoto Inoue)

²⁾ Division of Dysphagia Rehabilitation, Niigata University Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences (Chief: Prof. Makoto Inoue)

³⁾ Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, School of Health Sciences at Narita, International University of Health and Welfare

⁴⁾ Hayashi Dental Clinic

⁵⁾ Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Therapy, School of Rehabilitation Sciences, Health Sciences University of Hokkaido

⁶⁾ Department of Dentistry, JA Niigata Koseiren Niigata Medical Center

⁷⁾ Hanagata Dental Clinic

⁸⁾ Department of Special Needs Dentistry Division of Hygiene and Oral Health, Showa University School of Dentistry

⁹⁾ Dysphagia Rehabilitation, Niigata University Medical and Dental Hospital (Chief: Prof. Makoto Inoue)

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Abstract

Introduction: The occurrence of pneumonia is strongly associated with oral health in older people. The aim of this study was to clarify the effect of the suspension of visiting dental services on the occurrence of pneumonia during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. **Methods:** A self-administered postal questionnaire survey was conducted in 215 nursing homes in Japan. The questionnaire assessed the provision of visiting dental services and the interruption of these services following COVID-19 emergency restrictions. Pneumonia, hospitalization, and mortality rates were examined for January–June 2019 and January–June 2020. **Results:** Of facilities receiving visiting dental services, 37.7% had interruptions to those services. Overall, pneumonia, hospitalization, and mortality rates were lower in 2020 compared with 2019. In those facilities with no interruptions, rates were significantly lower in 2020 compared with 2019, whereas there was no significant difference between 2019 and 2020 in facilities with interruptions. **Conclusion:** Continuous dental services in nursing