

fathers and mothers was 65.3 and 63.0, respectively. The mean length of time receiving regular outpatient treatment was 29.7 years. Dr. Akiyama interviewed parents with a long lasting doctor-patient relationship and Mochizuki classified the data.

Parents had a good understanding of their children's conditions and knowledge, of how to deal with them. Parents perceived their family members, doctors and welfare workers as important support resources. Therefore, most of them reported comparatively subjective burdens, but two of them felt mental and physical burdens because of the death of a spouse and a spouse with Alzheimer's disease.

They appeared not to appraise their current situations as unusually stressful, but older parents worried about the future care of their children after their own death. Younger ones have no concrete plans for their children's future.

Parents recognize their children as their loved ones, and they want to keep them at home as long as they can take care of them. It has been recognized that medical welfare support and institutions with accommodation facilities for disabled adults cared for at home are important for the parents' peace of mind.

The Present State and Problems of Educating People about Death

Keiko SEKIDO

The present state of educating people about death in Japan was investigated. Initial efforts to educate people about death were begun in the latter half of the nineteen-eighties. Thereafter, this effort to help people be better informed about death has gradually increased. At present, efforts are being made to determine the best ways to promote this education.

Inviting the public to lectures at universities is one of the common ways to keep the public informed. However, lectures on death comprised less than 1 % of these presentations. In order to enlarge the number of people knowledgeable about death, it is necessary that the number of presentations be increased and programs at other facilities, such as community centers, added. However, just increasing the number of presentations is not the only solution.

Thought must be given to new ways to inform in better and more interesting ways.

Introducing Two Experiments on Oral Feeding in Fundamental Nursing Practice : How Swallowing is Affected by Body Position and Food Texture

Keiko SEKIDO and Kiyoko FUKAI

Assisting patients with eating is one of the educational units in fundamental nursing. As a portion of this content, the authors adopted two experiments on oral feeding. One was to study the relationship between body position and swallowing, and the other was the relationship between food texture and swallowing. The purpose of introducing these experiments in nursing education was to help nursing students understand the importance of oral feeding. This form of teaching was developed at this university. In the first phase, students determined that ease of swallowing changes with body position. Then the students experienced the difference among various foods from solids to liquids.

When the students had completed these experiments, they became interested in oral feeding as well as swallowing difficulties.