バイオフィードバック研究

Japanese Journal of Biofeedback Research

2022 vol.49

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第 48 回日本バイオフィードバック学会学術総会を終えて

飯田俊穂

安曇野内科ストレスケアクリニック

第48回日本バイオフィードバック学会学術総会を2021年6月19日(土)・6月20日(日)に医学系担当として、安曇野内科ストレスケアクリニック(長野県安曇野市)でコロナ禍の状況もありオンラインで開催いたしました。もともとは2020年6月に松本大学での開催を予定しておりましたが、コロナ禍の状況の悪化のためやむなく1年延期しさらにオンラインでの開催となりました。初めてのことで学会の皆様には大変ご迷惑やご不便をおかけしたこと申し訳なく思うとともに、オンラインでの開催にもかかわらずご参集いただいたこと誠に感謝申し上げます。また、今回は特別にUPM(日本心理医療諸学会連合)でもご一緒している日本カウンセリング学会の長野県支部による全国研修会とも合同で開催して、共有できる企画(バイオフィードバック講習会)や講演(特別講演,招待講演)に参加いただきました。

大会のテーマは「心と体をつなぐ~潜在能力を活かす~」としました。バイオフィードバック の新たな可能性を考え、各職域・分野での役割や期待される展望などこれからのバイオフィード バックの将来を考える大会となればと考えました。

オンラインでの開催でしたが、約100名以上の参加者と企業からも5社から協賛いただきました. 内容は、バイオフィードバック講座 (3 講座)、特別講演、招待講演、会長講演・本部企画シンポジウム、自主シンポジウム (新しい試みとして会員の皆さんの企画・運営によるシンポジウム2題)、一般演題 (8 題)、当学会員でなくてもバイオフィードバックに興味があって、関連している領域で研究や実践をしている方に当学会の役員 (理事)の推薦で発表できる拡大セッション (4 題)と内容の充実した学術総会となりましたこと感謝申し上げます

特別講演では、本来大会の会場をお願いしていました松本大学の大学院健康科学研究科・スポーツ健康学科の根本賢一先生より「健康寿命を延ばす運動実践法 めざせ!ピン!ピン!きらり!」をテーマに、多くの人がどのように運動すれば体力維持につながるかについて、歩行の実践法のほかに室内で手軽に実践できる筋トレ法や活動量計の効果的な使用法を紹介いただき、日常生活にも大変役立つ内容でした。また、招待講演では、平木典子先生(IPI 統合的心理療法研究所・顧問)より「これからのカウンセリングの流れ〜統合的心理療法とは?〜」をテーマに、21世紀の心理療法の方向性として、協働を中心とした統合的心理療法の考え方と方法についてシステミック・アプローチ(家族療法)を中心とした同化的統合モデルを例として取り上げ展望する内容でわかりやすく大変勉強になりました。

さらに、本部企画として「~動物とのふれあいの効果と実践~」をテーマに、会長による基調講演にひきつづきシンポジウムを長野県動物愛護センターの松澤淑美所長および職員の続木奏絵様より人と動物の関係学研究において「接触刺激」は、生理的な健康効果をもたらすこと、犬と人では、視覚刺激により双方にオキシトシンが分泌されることが明らかになり、猫への接触行動では非言語コミュニケーションや共感性を担う領域の前頭前野の活動が賦活化していること、長野県動物愛護センターでは、これらの効果を活用し不登校児童生徒を支援する動物介在活動を実施し、子どもと動物とのふれあいの時間が、子どもの緊張緩和やストレス軽減につながっていることが、唾液アミラーゼによるストレスチェックの結果からわかってきたこと、また、動物介在活動と同時に福祉関係機関と連携して保護者面談を行うことにより、親のストレスが軽減する、親子の会話が増える、親子関係が良好になるといった事例が増えていることなどが報告されました。

学会の初日には、バイオフィードバック技能士資格認定講習会が開かれました。3 講座とも

40~50人の参加があり大変好評でした.最初は、東京医研株式会社・技術部の奥啓之先生から「光線治療器による治療効果と将来展望」と題して、物理療法とは物理的なエネルギー(熱、水、光、電気、徒手)を外部から人体に応用し疼痛の緩解、循環の改善、リラクセーションの目的で使用する治療法であること。今回は、特に光線療法に着目しその特徴、治療分野、将来の展望などについてお話は大変刺激となりました。続いて、IPI 統合的心理療法研究所・顧問の平木典子先生から「アサーション・トレーニングのすすめ」と題して、自他尊重の<自己表現>のトレーニングが認知・生理の変化を伴う支援になっている現実を紹介していただきアサーションの可能性について共に考える時間となりました。最後に、長野県動物愛護センター・所長の松澤淑美先生から「動物が人を癒すメカニズム~人と動物の絆~」と題して、動物とのふれあいが自殺対策強化の一つとして位置づけられ、独自のプログラムや唾液アミラーゼ活性値によるストレス評価を導入し、困難を抱える子どもへの動物介在活動による支援事業を実施していることなどを紹介されました。

2日目は、及川欧先生(旭川医科大学病院リハビリテーション科)の企画・運営による国際交流委員会 企画シンポジウム「新型コロナウイルスの時代における遠隔医療(Telemedicine)の運用」について、さらに中尾睦宏先生(国際医療福祉大学)、竹林直紀先生(ナチュラル心療内科)の企画・運営による広報企画委員会企画シンポジウム「バーチャルリアリティによるオンライン・バイオフィードバックの試み」について、コロナ禍における新たな課題やこれからのバイオフィードバックにおける話題で大変刺激になるセッションとなりました。

私は、昭和大学(循環器内科)に勤務していた時に激しい胸痛と動悸、不安などを訴え救急受診するも循環器的な検査ではまったく異常は見いだせない患者さんの調査から、ストレスや疲労などの関与が少なからずあることに大変興味を覚えました。ストレスや疲労が自律神経を介して心や体に影響を与え症状として出現してくることを知りました。自律神経は脈拍や血圧の変動にも影響を与えることから、自律神経をコントロールする自律訓練法などのリラクセーション療法やバイオフィードバック療法に関心が広がりました。当学会でも多くの高血圧関連のバイオフィードバック療法の効果について発表・報告してきました。ここ十数年は動物とのふれあいが心や体に及ぼす影響について興味があり、唾液アミラーゼの変化でストレスの状態が判断できることから動物とのふれあいによる効果について研究してきています。

今後脳科学の研究がさらに進むことで新しいバイオフィードバックの世界が広がることを強く 切望します.

Telemedicine in the Age of the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Abstract

A symposium was planned by the International Exchange Committee of the Japanese Society of Biofeedback Research during the COVID-19 pandemic. Three speakers each talked about the use of telemedicine/telehealth in their fields. The first speaker talked about the OnTrackNY team intervention for early stage schizophrenia and its use of telehealth, mentioning the great challenge clinicians face for online assessment and management of psychosis and elevated suicide risk. The second speaker talked about the sixty years' history of the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition, with its use of tele-communication systems, beginning in the early days of high frequency radio up to the newer INMARSAT and INTELSAT systems of today. Telemedicine has been implemented to assist medical doctors at Syowa Station, Antarctica to treat disease and injury of Wintering personnel. The third speaker talked about research done during his actual Wintering, and the use of online biofeedback for hypersensitivity to cold, and hypothesizes that the autonomic nervous system may be helping human adaptation to extreme conditions such as the cold environment of Antarctica. Telemedicine/telehealth can be an alternative and useful "noncontact" method during pandemics.

Key words: SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), telemedicine/telehealth, mental health, Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition (JARE), non-contact biofeedback

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Received: March 24, 2022 Accepted: March 24, 2022

■ シンポジウム

COVID-19 の世界的大流行の時代における 遠隔医療

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抄 録

コロナ禍の中で、日本バイオフィードバック学会の国際交流委員会の企画で「COVID-19の世界的大流行の時代における遠隔医療」と題したシンポジウムが開催された。3名の演者が各々の領域におけるビデオ会議システムの使用法について講演した。1人目は米国ニューヨーク州で初期の統合失調症に対するチーム医療をOnTrackNYというシステム下で行っているが、急性期精神症への対応や自殺予防をオンラインで行うことの難しさについて語った。2人目は日本南極地域観測隊の60年間における、初期の短波無線から近年のINMARSATやINTELSATへの変遷の歴史について語った。遠隔医療によって、南極昭和基地で越冬する隊員たちの疾病や怪我を治療する医療担当者を日本国内から援護することが可能となる。3人目は自分の越冬体験と、冷え症に対するオンライン方式の非接触型バイオフィードバックの使用実績から、ヒトの寒冷環境など極限状況への順応に自律神経系が重要な役割を担っている、という仮説を立てた、オンラインによる遠隔医療などの取り組みは、コロナ禍のような感染症大流行の状況下でも直接相手に触れずに行える、有効な代替手段と考えられる。

キーワード: SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), 遠隔医療/オンライン診療, メンタル・ヘルス (精神保健, 心の健康), 日本南極地域観測 (JARE), 非接触型バイオフィードバック

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受 付: 2022年3月24日 受 理: 2022年3月24日

Introduction

The Reiwa Era commenced on May 1, 2019, the day on which Emperor Naruhito took over as the 126th Emperor of Japan, only to be soon followed by the outbreak of the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) pandemic later that year. This lead to an unprecedented one-year postponement of The Games of the XXXII Olympiad (TOKYO 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games). Nevertheless, the "stay home" campaign implemented by the Japanese government, gave us the most-needed opportunity to cogitate on how we should conduct "interpersonal relationships". There was a desperate demand for us to properly readjust our lifestyles, complying with the mandatory hygiene techniques (e.g. wearing masks in public, washing hands, sanitizing and disinfecting), and abiding by the rules & regulations of who can go where for how long and in what number (s). In order to continue on with our social lives, we were being forced to learn to live within the inconvenient confinement of the insistent contagion.

The 48th Annual Meeting of JSBR (Japanese Society of Biofeedback Research), which had already been cancelled in 2020 and postponed for one year, was to be held in the form of a fully online meeting, June 19–20, 2021. A symposium titled "Telemedicine in the Age of the COVID–19 Pandemic" was being planned by the International Exchange Committee (IEC) of JSBR during March 2021, in the midst of that vicious cycle. What appeared to be a fourth wave of new COVID–19 case reports in Japan was steadily materializing during this time [1] (**Fig. 1**).

Oikawa (Chairperson of IEC) individually approached Malinovsky and Watanabe with a proposal, asking each of them to be online–presenters for the symposium, to talk about teleconferencing methods being utilized in their separate fields. Malinovsky and Oikawa had worked together (2004–2009) under the supervision of Professor Paul M. Lehrer at UMDNJ (University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey) and Rutgers University [2]. Watanabe and Oikawa had worked together (2014–2016) at NIPR (National Institute of Polar Research) during Oikawa's preparation for and participation in the Wintering mission of the 56th Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition (JARE). Watanabe was mentor to Oikawa's clinical studies during his Wintering.

It was our hope that the presentations by the two researchers, each representing different professional backgrounds, along with Oikawa's presentation, would provide information that would give useful hints to those struggling to cope with the hardships of the "social crisis" that was

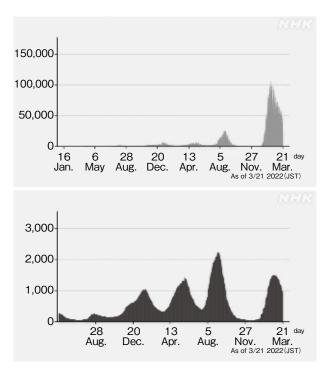


Fig. 1 COVID-19 cases in Japan (Data Source: NHK. March 21, 2022)

Above: COVID-19 daily cases. Below: COVID-19 severe cases.

being experienced at the time. A conflation of mutual discussion during the symposium, followed by a Q & A session with the audience, would hopefully enable members of JSBR, especially those participating in the actual online 48^{th} Annual Meeting (using Zoom), to acquire new interactive strategies on how we could somehow restore "interpersonal relationships". Malinovsky and Watanabe immediately joined the cause, and we present here, a compilation of what we discussed about at the symposium $[9:00-10:30AM:JST\ (Japan Standard Time), June 20, 2021]$. This was $8:00-9:30\ PM:EDT\ (Eastern Daylight Time)$, June 19, 2021 for Malinovsky living in New York City, U. S. A. Watanabe chaired the symposium.

Malinovsky talked mainly about the "OnTrackNY" Program [3], which is an empirically-based mental health treatment, that has been struggling with the use of telehealth since during the first days of the COVID-19 pandemic. Watanabe presented the history and use of telehealth/telemedicine during the sixty years of JARE, with notes on the recent contingency plan during the crisis. Oikawa mentioned the "Suu-Haa" Relaxation technique utilizing non-contact biofeedback, that was recently aired on national television in Japan.

In order to integrate the three presentations given during the symposium into one original paper, Oikawa has added and/or subtracted some sections and explanations mentioned (or not) during the original talk, to help navigate readers through the contents of the talks with a better understanding.

1. The OnTrackNY Program: Providing empirically-based mental health treatment using telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic

1. 1 Psychosis and Schizophrenia

Malinovsky is Director of Data Collection and Reporting at OnTrackNY, New York State Psychiatric Institute. OnTrackNY is an innovative treatment program for adolescents and youth adults who recently have had unusual thoughts and behaviors or who have started hearing or seeing things that others don't. OnTrackNY helps people achieve their goals for school, work, and relationships. The slogan that is used, "My health. My choices. My future", represents the well-being that lies ahead, for those who are ready to take some kind of "first steps" that would help them move forward into a better lifestyle.

The unusual thoughts, mentioned above, are called "delusions (false beliefs)", and hearing or seeing things that others don't is called "hallucinations". These are included in the symptoms of "psychosis". Psychosis is a term referring to a condition affecting the mind, where there has been some loss of contact with reality. These symptoms lead to behavior that is inappropriate for the situation. Psychosis may be a presenting symptom of a mental illness, such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder. Sleep deprivation, substance abuse of alcohol and drugs such as marijuana/heroin/cocaine/lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), and even some prescription medications or its combination, can also cause psychosis.

"Schizophrenia" is a mental illness characterized by bouts of and/or periods of psychosis. One must experience psychotic symptoms for at least six months in order to be diagnosed with schizophrenia, but family members and those close to the affected person may realize the first signs at its earliest stage. Early warning signs of psychosis include, but are not limited to; withdrawing socially, spending a lot more time alone than usual, decline in self-care or personal hygiene, trouble thinking clearly or concentrating, confused speech or trouble communicating, and worrisome drop in grades or job performance, etc. It is important to know that early treatment of psychosis increases the chance of a successful recovery.

Fig. 2 represents the big picture of schizophrenia. We

- Occurs worldwide (~0.5-1.5%): annual incidence 15.2 per 100,000; Male/female: 1.4-1.6
- Usually develops age 16 to 25; men younger than women
- · Accounts for 25% of all hospital bed days
- · Accounts for 40% of all long-term care days
- · Accounts for 20% of all disability benefit days
- · Costs the United States up to \$65 Billion per year

Fig. 2 Schizophrenia: Big Picture (Data from OnTrackNY, June 2021)

need to take into consideration that the precise prevalence estimates of this illness are difficult to calculate, due to clinical/methodological factors such as the complexity of diagnosis, its overlap with other mental disorders, and with the variation in actual methods used for determining diagnoses. With as many available data as possible taken into account, schizophrenia occurs worldwide at an average of 0.5-1.5%, the annual incidence is 15.2 per 100,000 population, while the male/female ratio is 1.4-1.6; meaning there are about fifty percent more men than women with schizophrenia. The first occurrence usually develops between ages sixteen and twenty-five, with men developing symptoms at a younger age than women. Schizophrenia accounts for twenty-five percent of all hospital bed days, forty percent of all long-term care days, twenty percent of all disability benefit days, and costs the United States up to sixty-five billion US dollars annually (data from OnTrackNY, June 2021).

There is under-treatment of mental disorders in youth, as well as under-treatment or non-treatment of psychotic illness operationalized as "duration of untreated psychosis (DUP)"; which is onset of psychosis to delivery of criterion treatment (e.g. antipsychotic medications). It has been well experienced and reported by mental healthcare professionals worldwide, that shorter DUP or more rapid "pathway to care", are associated with better outcomes. Also, specialized "early intervention services (EIS)" are superior to usual care for individuals with "first episode psychosis (FEP)" while care is being delivered. So, the primary goal has always been to reduce DUP and provide EIS, for promotion of long term recovery and reduction of disability.

Recovery After an Initial Schizophrenia Episode (RAISE)

In 2008, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) launched the Recovery After an Initial Schizophrenia Episode (RAISE) project [3]. RAISE is a large-scale research initiative that seeks to fundamentally alter the tra-

jectory and prognosis of schizophrenia through coordinated and aggressive treatment in the earliest stages of illness. RAISE began with two major studies examining different aspects of coordinated specialty care (CSC) treatments for people who were experiencing FEP.

One study was a randomized clinical trial, the RAISE Early Treatment Program (RAISE-ETP), conducted by John M. Kane at the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research in North Shore-Long Island [4]. It focused on whether or not the CSC treatment program "NAVIGATE" worked better than care typically available in community settings. RAISE-ETP findings showed that over two years, clients at the NAVIGATE clinics stayed in treatment longer, experienced greater improvement in their symptoms, interpersonal relationships, and quality of life, and were more involved in work or school compared to clients at the typical-care sites. NAVIGATE clients who had a shorter DUP when they started the study showed even greater improvements than those with longer DUP. Further facts on NAVIGATE can be found online: https://navigateconsultants.org.

Another study was an Implementation and Evaluation Study (RAISE-IES) done at the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc. (RFMH) of New York Psychiatric Institute, orchestrated by Lisa B. Dixon [5]. This study examined the best way for clinics to start using the CSC treatment program called the "Connection Program". The researchers created two specialty care clinics for treating FEP, one in New York and one in Maryland. The project examined the clinical and administrative aspects of establishing such specialty care clinics, and developed tools and materials that others may use to start their own CSC programs. The study also looked at factors that affected clients' and family members' satisfaction with treatment, as well as clients' outcomes after participating in the Connection Program. This program provided medication, supported employment and education, family support and education, psychoeducation, skills training, substance abuse treatment, and suicide prevention as part of an implementation feasibility study (no comparison condition). The RAISE-IES study compared clients' functioning at initial contact to outcomes two years later, showing promising results for individuals participating in the CSC program. Clients' symptoms improved over time, as did their work, educational and social lives.

Finally, researchers showed that the CSC treatment model was appealing. Clients participated and stayed in the CSC program because they felt they were treated with warmth and respect and because they received effective services. Further facts on RAISE can be found online: https://www.nimh.nih.gov.

1. 3 OnTrackNY

The program for OnTrackNY was developed by the Center for Practice Innovations at the New York State Psychiatric Institute, and implemented immediately after the RAISE-IES study ended in June 2013 with promising results [5] earlier that month, while the RAISE-ETP study was still under way. Many FEP programs elsewhere were becoming well known at the time, and this particular program being started in the State of New York was named OnTrackNY to epitomize its positive and hopeful mission [3]. Since then, OnTrackNY has progressed from an evidence-based research project to "real-world" implementation [4], with involvement of state-level leadership and coordination of efforts, and financial circumstances, in response to emerging science, local experience and adaptation to the needs of the time. Although academic centers play a key role in the development and testing of new treatment strategies, we often find the need to "adjust" the results to fit into typical "real world" settings, each with its own cultural diversity. The "real world" for OnTrackNY was the State of New York, most probably with the largest cultural diversity in the world.

The eligibility criteria for OnTrackNY are : 1) to be between the age of sixteen and thirty, 2) to have diagnosis of primary psychotic disorder which include : schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, schizophreniform disorder, other specified schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorder, unspecified schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorder, or delusional disorder, 3) to have a duration of illness with the onset of psychosis at one week or over (\ge) up to and including 2 years, and 4) to be a New York State Resident.

As of June 2021, there are thirteen OnTrackNY programs in the NYC area, two each in Long Island, Westchester and Buffalo (1 NAVIGATE), and one each in Albany (capital city of NY), Middle town, Binghamton, Syracuse and Rochester (**Fig. 3**). Opening of new program sites throughout the New York State is underway.

Fig. 4 shows an overall view of the OnTrackNY Team Intervention, which is similar to the multidisciplinary team approach that Oikawa, Malinovsky et al. discuss about in their 2007 presentation [2]. Team Roles of OnTrackNY include: Team Leader, Primary Clinician/Therapist, Peer Specialist, Prescriber/Psychiatrist, Nurse, Supported Education and Employment Specialist (SEES), and Outreach and Recruitment Coordinator (ORC).

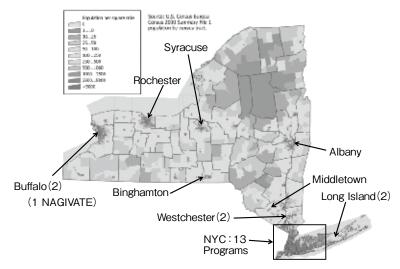


Fig. 3 OnTrackNY Sites as of June 2021 (Additional offices are being implemented)

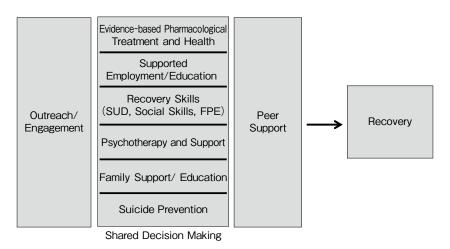


Fig. 4 OnTrackNY Team Intervention

There is "Shared Decision Making (SDM)" through the entire healing process, starting from Outreach/Engagement with the potential client. The members of the SDM team work together to help the client choose one path over another, when there are two or more medically reasonable treatment options available. The OnTrackNY treatment is delivered in a person (client)—centered, recovery—focused, culturally competent fashion. Cultural beliefs and identities include; race—ethnicity, religion, language, socioeconomic status, gender, sexuality, and youth culture.

The second step is one of several : 1) evidence-based pharmacological treatment and health, which involves prescribing the lowest effective doses of antipsychotics with the fewest side effects, 2) supported employment/education, which also helps clients and families meet concrete needs such as health insurance, housing, tutoring/mentoring and connects individuals to outside sources, 3) recovery

skills [SUD (substance use disorder), social skills, FPE (family psychoeducation)], 4) psychotherapy and support, with training in resiliency, illness/wellness management, and coping skills, 5) family support/education, which must be consistent with client and family needs and preferences, and 6) suicide prevention. Peer support has been added to this basic model along the way, being a key process which enhances outreach and recruitment efforts to help clients stay connected to the program, empowering them to advocate for themselves, effectively use OnTrackNY services, through which process the client would be aided to eventual recovery. Peer support is when people use their own experiences to help one another, such as with one-to-one support (e.g. befriending, mentoring), with support groups or with (online) forums. Although the whole process is done in an SDM scenario, the "lead role" is always the client who has taken a step forward.



Photos: Igor Malinovsky

Fig. 5 New York City with empty streets during the early days of the COVID-19 Pandemic "pause"

Some of the outcome results of OnTrackNY are as follows (enrollment of 325 individuals, between October 2013 and August 2016; the data reported in this study were from admission and months three, six, nine, and twelve following enrollment); Education and employment rates increased from 40% to 80% by six months, hospitalization rates decreased from 70% to 10% by three months, and improvement in GAF (Global Assessment of Functioning) scores continued for twelve months. Female gender, non–Hispanic white race–ethnicity, and more education at baseline predicted better education and employment status at follow–up [6]. Further facts on OnTrackNY can be found online: https://ontrackny.org, https://bit.ly/3wGuxHq, https://www.facebook.com/OnTrackNY.

1. 4 The "real world" responds to COVID-19

The first case of COVID-19 in the State (also City) of New York was confirmed on March 1, 2020. With the COVID-19 pandemic emerging and spreading at an enormous and devastating pace, Governor (at the time) Andrew M. Cuomo (56th Governor; January 1, 2011-August 23, 2021) announced on March 20, he was putting the Empire State (New York State) on "pause", meaning non-essential workers should stay inside their homes at all times except for critical travel, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy. By March 29, over thirty thousand cases were confirmed, and New York City had become the worst affected area in the United States. There were over two thousand deaths by April 6; at that stage, the city had more

confirmed COVID-19 cases than China, the UK, or Iran. Bodies of the deceased were picked up from their homes by the US Army, National Guard, and Air National Guard [7]. **Fig. 5** shows New York City with empty streets during the early days of the COVID-19 Pandemic "pause".

All OnTrackNY teams were forced to switch to some form of telehealth with minimal or no in-person services offered, and telehealth using phones and video became standard protocol. Team members began searching for and utilizing secure platforms, with use of technologies and applications compliant with privacy/security laws, such as Doxy. me, Webex, Microsoft teams, Zoom for healthcare, and Google Workspace. During the earlier days, there were many different issues concerning safety and compliance, which were modified and corrected with multitudes of feedback from frequent users. Citizens were forced to use some form of communication instrument over the internet to continue interacting with others. The implementation of telehealth was very challenging, for both staff and clients, with little planning or training, lack of equipment, low availability of WIFI, lack of privacy, etc. The greatest challenge was that clinicians needed to assess and manage symptoms of psychosis and elevated suicide risk via telehealth.

Fig. 6 shows persons tested (PCR) Positive (for COVID-19) by County; you can see that the OnTrackNY sites (**Fig. 3**) are located in approximately the same exact area as the "high number" areas in **Fig. 6**, and imagine the immediate need there was to switch to telehealth, over-

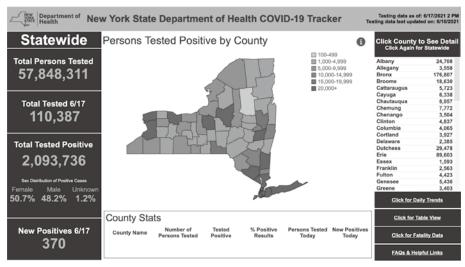


Fig. 6 Persons Tested (PCR) Positive (for COVID-19) by County (Data from Department of Health, New York State, June 18, 2021)

night.

1. 5 Mental Health with Telehealth

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many outpatient mental health and subspecialty clinics in the US and around the world have scaled up telehealth visits. Providers have been better trained during a very brief period of time, and more practices are now equipped with telehealth infrastructure, and these telehealth services will likely continue to be offered beyond the pandemic.

A review of 32 studies by Liu et al. suggested that video-conferencing, telephone calls, and web-based telemedicine modalities are as effective as in-person visits for diagnosis and management of most mental health and SUD [8]. Another review of 27 studies (N = 2648) by McClellan et al. suggested that videoconferencing was more effective than telephone for depression; telepsychiatry is similarly effective as services provided face-to-face [9]. Also, a review of 12 studies by Norwood et al. showed good working alliance and outcome with videoconferencing psychotherapy (VCP); although working alliance was inferior with VCP, the target symptoms' reduction was noninferior [10]. These findings suggest that outcomes associated with telehealth are comparable to standard care without sacrificing working alliance.

The Gregorian calendar (used in most countries of the world) can be divided into four quarters, often abbreviated as Q1, Q2, Q3, and Q4. Q1 (The first quarter) is January 1–March 31 (90 days, or 91 days in leap years), Q2 (the second quarter) is April 1–June 30 (91 days), Q3 (the third quarter) is July 1–September 30 (92 days), and Q4 (the fourth quarter) is October 1–December 31 (92 days). Due to tremendous effort on both staff/client sides, 95%, 94%

and 95%, respectively, of OnTrackNY participants have been receiving some services using telehealth, during the three consecutive quarters of Q3 2020, Q4 2020 and Q1 2021. Since the first COVID-19 case in New York State (New York City) was reported during the latter half of Q1 2020, it was during the three months of Q2 2020 that the construction of telehealth had been accomplished. With the results of the past studies and our high adherence to telehealth methods, we are hoping our OnTrackNY clients will have good outcome, even during the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

Some studies on biofeedback using telehealth have been reported; One study is by Folen et al. The system developed by the authors provided real-time video and audio interactivity and allows the therapist to monitor and control biofeedback equipment located at the remote site. Authors proposed that this improves access to care, particularly for patients located at considerable distance from the provider [11]. A study by Sandsjö et al. show that teletreatment of neck and shoulder pain was on par with conventional care, but without the effort and time loss associated with regular visits to the clinic [12]. Correia et al. mention that digital rehabilitation solution can achieve better outcomes than conventional in-person rehabilitation, while less demanding in terms of human resources [13]. Although these biofeedback interventions seem to show some benefits and promising results, even when delivered remotely, more research is needed to ensure the safety and effectiveness of non-contact biofeedback.

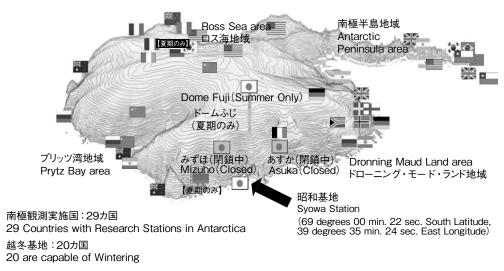


Fig. 7 Major Stations in Antarctica



Photo: Kentaro Watanabe

Fig. 8 Aerial View of Syowa Station in Summer

2. Telemedicine in the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition (JARE)

2. 1 Introduction & history

Born in Fukushima Prefecture of Japan, Watanabe has spent most of his career in the Tokyo Metropolitan area. He is Professor Emeritus of NIPR and presently Managing Director of the Japan Polar Research Association (JPRA).

He has many years of experience in the Antarctic Region; for JARE he has overwintered four times, and also did three summer missions during 1980–2013. He acted as Syowa Station Leader (Wintering) twice; 1999–2001 (JARE 41), 2004–2006 (JARE 46), and was Expedition Leader 2012–2013 (JARE 54). For most expeditions, the Syowa Station Leader is Expedition Sub-leader, who remains in Antarctica over the winter as Station Leader. Other appointments include CHINARE (1988–1989), ANARE (January,

1992), Inspection (February, 2010) and Cruise Lecturer (January, 2020). Watanabe's research areas have centered on the Antarctic marine ecosystem, especially on the primary producers; the ice algae [14–16].

There are twenty-nine countries with Research Stations in Antarctica, of which twenty are capable of Wintering (**Fig. 7**).

Syowa Station, established in 1957, is located at 69 degrees 00 min. 22 sec. South Latitude, 39 degrees 35 min. 24 sec. East Longitude (**Fig. 7, 8**). It is located not on the Antarctica Continent, but on East Ongul Island, off the coast of Antarctica. The name Syowa Station is derived from the *Showa* (*Syowa*) Era (Emperor Hirohito, 124th Emperor of Japan) it was built in, and there are three other Stations; Dome Fuji Station (opened only for the summer research team each year), Mizuho Station and Asuka Station (both presently closed). Many countries have built their stations

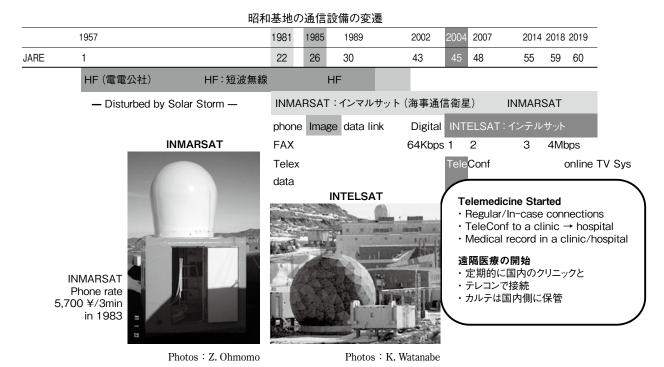


Fig. 9 Tele-Communication System at Syowa Station

in the Ross Sea Area, Antarctic Peninsula area, Prytz Bay area and Dronning Maud Land area, while the closest station to Syowa Station is situated about 1,000 kilometers away, making this station almost inaccessible during the Wintering.

Fig. 8 shows an aerial view of Syowa Station (photograph by Watanabe on his departure via helicopter to *Shirase*, February 6, 2013). This period is during "Summer" in Antarctica, and part of the rock surface of the island, the station buildings are anchored on, can be seen.

Fig. 9 shows the transition history of the tele-communication system at Syowa Station. Historically, JARE 1 during its first Wintering attempt in 1957, used High Frequency (HF) Radio by Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Public Corporation, and the radio calls were often disturbed by solar storms. The HF system was discontinued in 2002 (JARE 43).

This system was replaced in 1981 (JARE 22) by International Maritime Satellite Organization (INMARSAT), which is an international organization founded in 1979 (Global Headquarter is situated in London, Great Britain). JARE Wintering members were able to use phone, facsimile, telex and send data. The phone rate (1983) cost 5,700 yen/3 min. when the average office worker's annual income was 3.38 million yen (over 60% of a daily wage, for one very brief phone call home). They were able to send images starting 1985 (JARE 26), and data linking started in 1989

(JARE 30). By 2002 (JARE 43), the INMARSAT system enabled digital data to be sent at 64Kbps.

This system was replaced in 2004 by International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT), which is an international organization founded in 1964 (Headquarter in based in Washington D. C., U. S. A.), and the data speed has increased from 1Mbps (2004: JARE 45) to 2Mbps (2007: JARE 48), 3Mbps (2014: JARE 55) and 4Mbps (2018: JARE 59). JARE is presently still using the older INMARSAT system.

Teleconferencing was begun in 2004 (JARE 45), and the remote medical system was implemented during 2006 (JARE 47), where regular monthly connections were made: teleconferencing with a physician specializing in the corresponding field became possible, and all medical recording would be stored in the clinic/hospital setting in Japan. A newer online TV videoconferencing system has been implemented in 2019 (JARE 60).

2. 2 Current telemedicine at Syowa Station

In a recent article [17], an evaluation of 6837 disease/injury cases during Wintering for JARE 1 thru 56 was reported (**Fig. 10, 11**). **Fig. 10-a** shows the range and average age of expeditioners; averaging at around 30 yrs. of age (JARE 14) gradually increasing to a peak of around 40 yrs. of age (JARE 52), demonstrating higher age of members in recent years.

Fig. 10-b shows rates of disease/injury by medical

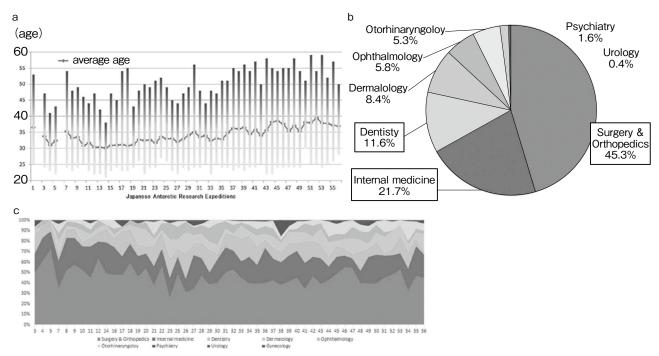


Fig. 10 Evaluation of 6837 disease/injury cases of overwintering expeditioners during JARE 1-56, 1956-2016 [17]

- a: Range and average age of expeditioners, 1956-2016
- b: Rates of disease/injury by medical departments
- \boldsymbol{c} : Changes in disease/injury rates based on departments

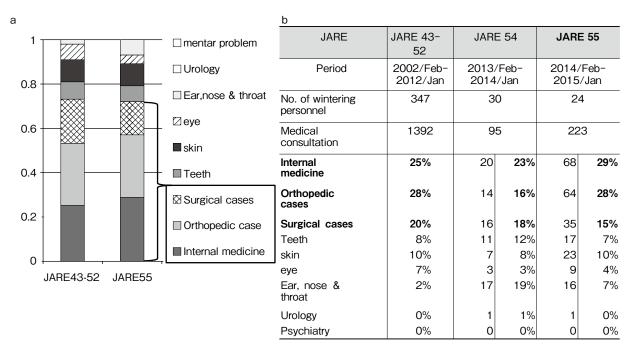


Fig. 11 Comparison of medical consultation [17]

- a: Comparison of proportion of medical consultation between recent ten years and JARE 55
- b: Proportion of medical consultation (summary of recent ten years, JARE 54 and JARE 55)

departments: Surgery & orthopedics was highest at 45.3%, internal medicine was second at 21.7%, dentistry was 11.6%, and psychiatry cases were low at 1.6%. Fortunately, there have been no serious cases requiring medical evacuation in the Wintering period. Fig. 10-c shows changes in disease/injury rates based on departments. Since different JARE teams have different missions to accomplish, and the priorities differ as well, we cannot say there were any significant differences between Wintering teams shown in Fig. 10-c.

Fig. 11 shows comparison of medical consultation. Fig. 11-a is comparison of proportion of medical consultation between recent ten years and that of JARE 55. Although we add surgical cases and orthopedic cases as "Surgery and Orthopedics" for the statistical analysis (**Fig. 10-b, 10-c**), each medical consultation is either one or another. When compared separately, although orthopedic cases were higher (28%) than internal medicine cases (25%) and surgical cases (20%) for the ten years between JARE 43 and 52, internal medicine cases were higher (29%) than orthopedic cases (28%) and surgical cases (15%) for JARE 55. To see if this was a rare case, we looked at reporting from JARE 54; here too we saw that internal medicine cases were much higher (23%) than orthopedic cases (16%) and surgical cases (18%), but as discussed in the Ikeda article, this variation in diagnosed disease/injury may be due to differences in the specialty of the medical doctor(s) of that team.

Telemedicine by videophone is executed by the medical doctor and/or member (patient) describing his/her symptom(s) directly to the specialist on the screen, who then asks the patient for additional information, and/or for the team doctor to do additional medical examination and testing, including but not limited to blood/urinary/stool sampling, ECG/echogram and X-ray examination, etc.

Remote rehabilitation has been done in the past, where rehabilitation medicine doctors and/or physical/occupational therapists on the Japanese side would show how to do the therapy, and the team doctor and/or patient on the Syowa Station side would imitate the therapeutic movement.

For dental images of narrow areas such as the inside of the mouth, a special camera has been installed in Syowa Station, to take high quality video.

Individual medical consultation using this telehealth support system has been held ten times in JARE 54 and seventeen times in JARE 55. Practical cases which needed consultations were one dental case of JARE 54, and three

dental problems and three bone fracture injuries of JARE 55. The communication between Syowa Station and the consultant-hospital in Japan is held routinely once a month, and in addition to this, we sometimes add special fields such as surgery, anesthesiology, psychiatry, urology, emergency medicine, ophthalmology, and so on, when we foresee such cases to happen for a particular Wintering team. All of these communications and simulations are useful for the Wintering medical doctors to gain proficiency in the use of telecommunication and insight into preventive measures and treatment experience of a certain disease/injury of the different fields, other than their own.

Contingency plan behind the JARE 62 operation during the COVID-19 pandemic

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, NIPR/JARE decided to set forth a contingency plan for JARE 62 (2020-22). In order to keep the risk of COVID-19 infection as low as possible within the expedition personnel traveling to Antarctica, the expedition blueprint limited research/logistic projects to fundamentals; i.e. year-round monitoring observations and basic maintenance for Syowa Station. All summer research projects were cancelled except for regular maintenance, and all summer logistics were limited to basic maintenance. There was a two-week quarantine before departure; both for crew (Self Defense Force) and expedition personnel. Also the round trip by ship to Antarctica had no port calls along the way.

The usual plan is as follows: e.g. Route of JARE 54: Expedition personnel flew to Sydney and travelled across the continent to wait at Freemantle, Australia for the Icebreaker *Shirase* with the Self Defense Force members to arrive. They departed from port November 30, and arrived at Syowa Station December 19. *Shirase* departed from Syowa Station February 14 with the Summer Team of JARE 54 and Wintering Team of JARE 53 on board, and arrived in Sydney, Australia, March 18.

JARE 62 is wintering presently (as of June 2021), and JARE 63 will be leaving port on the Icebreaker *Shirase* on November 10, 2021 for its 15,000 kilometer travel over the equator into the Antarctic region (Oikawa's notes: JARE 63 is Wintering at the moment March 22, 2022).

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, JARE had decided to reduce the number of expeditioners for two winter seasons (JARE 55 & 56), because of shortage of fuel deposit at Syowa Station, caused by past years' heavy sea ice condition forcing *Shirase* to leave Syowa Station earlier than usual, without transporting all of the fuel intended for use. **Fig. 12** shows the number of expeditioners of JARE54,

JARE #	JARE 54	JARE 55	JARE 56	JARE 57	JARE 62
Period	2013/Feb- 2014/Jan	2014/Feb- 2015/Jan	2015/Feb- 2016/Jan	2016/Feb- 2017/Jan	2021/Feb- 2022/Jan
No. of personnel	Winter 30 Summer 35	Winter 24 Summer 39	Winter 26 Summer 39	Winter 30 Summer 32	Winter 31 Summer 12
Wintering operation site	Syowa	Syowa	Syowa	Syowa	Syowa
No. of Medical doctors	2	1	1	2	2

Fig. 12 Changes in Number of personnel of JARE



Fig. 13 Assisting other expedition members' work at Syowa Station



Fig. 14 Monthly telemedicine video conference between Syowa Station and Japan

55, 56, 57 and 62, respectively. The number of Medical doctors was one each for JARE 55 and 56 (Oikawa), while the Wintering personnel were 24 (JARE 55) and 26 (JARE 56). JARE 62 has reduced its summer personnel to 12.

3. From virus-free environment of Antarctica to COVID-19 pandemic in Japan

3. 1 Telemedicine and video conferencing at Syowa Station, Antarctica

Oikawa was a member of the Wintering team of JARE 56. A crucial job for a medical doctor during Wintering in Antarctica, is to closely observe and prevent the expedition

members from becoming too sick or injured to complete their jobs there. In order to accomplish such a task, the simplest option was to assist other members with their daily work, and attempt to always be smiling (**Fig. 13**).

Fig. 14 represents a monthly telemedicine video conferencing scene with consultant medical doctors of a hospital in Japan. The member sitting next to Oikawa is a computer engineer for KDDI Corporation, a communication company with branch offices all over the world. The monthly video conference was to make sure all the Wintering members of Syowa Station remain healthy, because past research [18–20] have shown that although small in percentage, some Wintering members begin to show psychiatric

Timeline Start of Wintering: February 2015 1st trial April 2015 [aver. temp. -11.9°C (10.6 °F)] 3 months between trials 2nd trial July 2015 [aver. temp. -17.7°C (0.1 °F)] Latter Quarter of Wintering: October-December 2015 End of Wintering: February 2016

Fig. 15 Study Schedule (JARE56 Wintering at Syowa Station)

symptoms such as mood or sleep disorders, especially during the Polar Night, which may lead to illnesses and injuries in the latter quarter of the Wintering (October-December). The polar night, of about ninety consecutive days in Antarctica (End of May to mid-July), is a phenomenon where the sun remains below the horizon throughout the twenty-four hours. Daylight exhibits itself like that of a hazy foggy morning. Although Wintering begins early February, the next expedition team arrives at Syowa Station around the end of December, and there is a transitional period between teams, where information and experience is shared and ideas exchanged; which lasts about a month and a half. The primary mission for the former team during the latter quarter of the Wintering, is to prepare (package, snowplow, roadbuild and transport) for the arriving team, and all of the previous team need to be in their best physical/mental state of health during that period.

During the Wintering in Antarctica, Oikawa did a clinical study to see how intervention using a combination of autogenic training and biofeedback might help the human body "adapt" to the cold, dry and isolated living environment of Antarctica[21]. The basic method used for training of the Wintering members of JARE 56 [24 (including Oikawa) of 26 members who gave consent to be participants in a study] at Syowa Station, was an integration of autogenic training and skin temperature (bio) feedback, utilizing HRV-BF (heart rate variability biofeedback) equipment. The reason for surrounding "bio" with round brackets; (bio) feedback, is because we were not able to show each participant, in real-time, how the body temperature was gradually changing during each of their sessions.

times)" → "My legs are heavy (refrain multiple times)" → "My arms are warm (refrain multiple times)" → "My legs are warm (refrain multiple times)" →looping back to "I feel very calm".

For the biofeedback part, two ambulatory equipment, CheckMyHeart and Stress-Eraser for the training and HRV data-recording (the analysis of the data was executed after Oikawa returned to Japan) were utilized, and feedback of pre-/post-training surface skin temperature was done to show the participants what was trying to be accomplished through the actual (bio) feedback session (s). This study was special in that the researcher and the subjects were both under long-term exposure to the same stressor (cold, dryness, and isolation), and Oikawa found it necessary to postpone analysis of the data (especially his own) to prevent any bias that would prevent fair trial of the ongoing experiment.

The Study Schedule is shown in **Fig. 15.** The first trial was executed during April 2015, three months into the Wintering which started on 1 February, 2015. The average temperature outdoors during this period was -11.9 degrees centigrade (10.6 degrees fahrenheit). The second trial was executed three months after the first trial, during July 2015, towards the end of the polar night. The average temperature outdoors during this period was -17.7 degrees centigrade (0.1 degrees fahrenheit).

In another presentation given at a past JSBR conference, Oikawa talked about an outside mission just before a blizzard storm hit Syowa Station. The date was July 16, 2015 and the outside temperature -22.5 degrees centigrade (-8.5 degrees fahrenheit). Since the wind velocity was 4.9 meters per second (16.1 ft per second), the apparent temperature, which is the temperature that is actually felt with the wind and all, was -33.3 degrees centigrade (-27.9 degrees fahrenheit). A mere twenty minutes outdoors in the low temperature and the strong wind, gave the





Photos: JARE56

Fig. 16 NHK: "Tameshite-Gatten"

(Aired: December 23, 2015)

speaker "immediate" frostbite, on right cheek and left ear. Approximately two months afterwards (September 21, 2015), during a 4 hour trek across land in an outside temperature of -25.5 degrees centigrade or -13.9 degrees Fahrenheit, Oikawa was dressed in the same layer of clothing as on July 16. Interestingly, no sign of frostbite could be felt or seen on the facial surface. It seemed as though the speaker had become "adapted" to the cold environment [21].

It was during this period, that Oikawa was approached by NHK (*Nippon Hoso Kyokai*; Japan Broadcasting Corporation), that was planning to do a feature on "*Hiye-syo*" (hypersensitivity to cold). This was for a long-running and highly-viewed television program titled "*Tameshite-Gatten*," which means "Try it and…Ah-hah! (It all makes sense!) in Japanese. To our knowledge, this was the first attempt by JARE of telebroadcasting from Syowa Station for the Japanese general public.

Fig. 16 shows actual footage from during the filming for NHK's "Tameshite-Gatten." In the left photo, you can see two of our Wintering members each using a different portable BF device that they have been using to practice their training, to overcome hypersensitiveness to the cold. One member mentioned that his anger control had improved along with his hands' skin temperature. The other member mentioned that he had begun to feel warmer during his work outside in the cold weather. The right photo shows our KDDI engineer using a mini-video camera to show our JARE 56 Wintering members and the inside of Syowa Station to the participants/guests of this particular "Tameshite-Gatten," show being televised from the NHK studio in Japan. A high definition satellite video system is being used.

This was also the first opportunity for Oikawa to treat remotely, with the biofeedback method being used in Antarctica, via the video conferencing system. Although Oikawa was blinded to who he was treating at the time, NHK had him hold an online training session one week ahead of schedule, for a "mystery actress" with hypersensitivity to cold, who would thereafter practice what she was taught for a week before the broadcast. It turned out that she was the leading actress for the NHK morning television serial at that time (2015) "Asa-ga-kita (Morning has come)", in her early thirties, who had tried many different methods in the past with very little success. As promised, she practiced our method for a week before the "Tameshite-Gatten" broadcast. Surprising to all, there was great improvement in both her symptoms and her actual thermography readings on that day, giving positive evidence to Oikawa's methodology.

The day of this broadcast (December 23, 2015) coincided with, by sheer chance, the same day the Icebreaker Ship *Shirase* with the JARE 57 team members on board, arrived at Syowa Station, surprising and frustrating some parties concerned back home.

Video conferencing between Asahikawa Medical University and Syowa Station

Upon returning to Japan, Oikawa went back to working in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at Asahikawa Medical University. In order to continue involvement with Antarctica, 1) he analyzed the HRV data taken in Antarctica during JARE 56, and 2) he put together another medical study to look at physiological changes taking place in the body, by looking at "tongue feature" as well as using a questionnaire to calculate energy and water/bloodflow changes taking place. The analysis of this second study is now underway.

To summarize the main effects of the HRV data take in Antarctica during JARE 56: the three-month life toward the polar night during the Antarctic Wintering seemed to improve HRV, suppress sympathetic nerve arousal, and

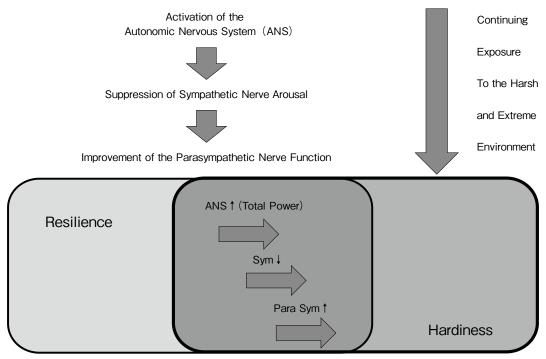


Fig. 17 Hypothesis of "Adaptation" Process in Antarctica



Photos: Leo O Oikawa

Fig. 18 Video Conferencing between Asahikawa Medical University and Syowa Station (March 2018) using the HD Video Conferencing System: SONY XG-100

improve function of the parasympathetic vagal nerve, suggesting that such stressors as long-term cold, dryness, and isolation due to Wintering may be helping the human autonomic nervous system adapt to the harsh and extreme cold environment. The details of this study are reported elsewhere [21].

Hardiness is said to be the strength of mind and body that can maintain health even under high stress [22, 23]. Resilience is said to be what gives people the physical and psychological strength to cope with adversity and stress [24]. From what we can speculate through the analyzed HRV data of JARE 56 participants in the study, the speaker hypothesizes that this process of ANS activation, followed by sympathetic nerve suppression and parasympathetic improvement may be a natural "adaptation" process; which

may be the key mechanism that strengthens both resilience and hardiness, interacting to assist the human body's resistance to the harsh and extreme environment of Antarctica (**Fig. 17**). Oikawa thinks the biofeedback intervention may have enhanced the speed and total power of that natural course. Interestingly, none of the JARE 56 Wintering members had major illnesses or injuries, nor gained or lost too much weight, which usually happens especially toward the end of Wintering.

Asahikawa Medical University has been using the High Definition (HD) Video Conferencing System: SONY XG-100 for many years. **Fig. 18** shows a video conferencing between Oikawa with his rehabilitation staff at Asahikawa Medical University and the two medical doctors of JARE 58 at Syowa Station, during March, 2018.

①Inhale="Suu,"& claw fingers/toes

②Exhale="Haa,"& relax fingers/toes

- ③Subjects were trained over Zoom, individually for ten minutes each.
- Subjects were then asked to thereafter practice twice daily for one week.

Fig. 19 Method for the "Suu-Haa" Relaxation Technique

In order to communicate between the two parties, using this particular video conferencing system, the user had to sign application forms many weeks ahead of schedule, the University had to exchange written contracts with NIPR, reservations had to be made well in advance to use the equipment and communication room, and engineers on three ends: Syowa Station (Antarctica), NIPR (Tokyo) and Asahikawa Medical University, each had to work with the connection and recording. Video and/or sound were easily lost during even a short conference, and the system would have to be rebooted and reconnected, over and over.

Totally unimaginable to us at that time, was the fact that only a year or two after this video conference, the COVID-19 pandemic would begin, resulting in online video conferencing suddenly becoming an essential factor in our lives. We were told by our local governments to stay home, and to work/socialize remotely, over the internet. Many simplified video communication/conferencing tools soon became available. Some are used more than others, and the Zoom application seems to be used often in the medical scene in Japan.

3. 3 The "Suu-Haa" Relaxation Technique

It was during this COVID-19 pandemic, that Oikawa was approached once again by NHK, during mid-January of 2021. NHK was planning to do another feature on "Hiye-syo" for a morning television program called "Asa-ichi," which is a well-used term meaning "First thing in the morning" in Japanese. This program has a national viewing rate of around 10% on average, which means approximately 10 million of the Japanese population would be watching the show.

Since we were under the COVID-19 pandemic travelling restriction, NHK wanted to do an online training session using Zoom, for several volunteers they were recruiting, all of whom were suffering from "Hiye-syo."

They wanted to simplify the training protocol from the

one Oikawa used during JARE 56, and it took several emails back and forth for the two parties to eventually produce the "Suu-Haa" Relaxation technique. "Suu" and "Haa" are onomatopoeias expressing inhalation and exhalation. The major change was that Oikawa discarded the autonomic training section from the original protocol, which was something he had been discussing with Sakakibara about, after returning from Antarctica [25]. The new technique consisted of a combination of slow breathing (not necessarily at 0.1 Hz pace) and rhythmical skeletal muscle tension (RSMT), adopted and revised from the original manuscript by Lehrer [26]. The method for applying this "Suu-Haa" Relaxation Technique over the internet is shown in Fig. 19. Basically, Oikawa would visually/orally lead the subjects throughout the ten minutes over Zoom; to claw their fingers and toes during slow paced inhalation ("Suu"), and to relax fingers and toes during slow paced exhalation ("Haa").

The subjects were to be four "Hiye-syo" volunteers, recruited through public announcement by NHK; all who turned out to be female. During the online session, Oikawa would be situated in his office in Asahikawa, while the volunteers would come into the NHK studio in Tokyo, on a certain date (January 29, 2021). The volunteers had been told beforehand, that they would be treated via Zoom, but had not been told who would be doing the training, nor what method would be used. We would also be using continuous thermography of the volunteers, to look for immediate changes in surface skin temperature.

Before training the four volunteers, Oikawa had a chance to practice-train an NHK announcer, in her early thirties, who would be the reporter of the "Hiye-syo" feature for "Asa-ichi" on the day of broadcast. She turned out to be the best responder (there was a surface skin temperature increase of nearly three degrees centigrade) out of all five trained this day. The announcer was born and raised in New

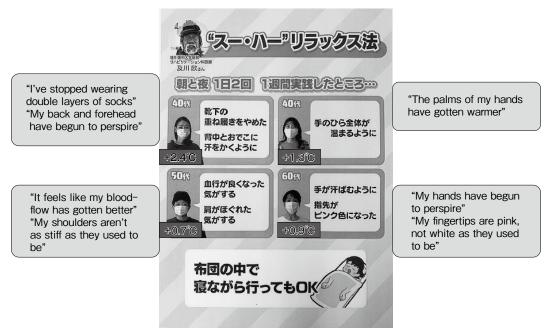


Fig. 20 Results of the "Suu-Haa" Relaxation Technique (Data Source: NHK "Asa-Ichi", On Air February 17, 2021)

York City, spending the same kind of childhood days as Oikawa's elder sister. He knew of this and had mentioned this to her before the training, which may have helped her relax and concentrate better than the other volunteers.

The session consisted of the following: 1) interview before procedure by NHK staff on the type and severity of the sensitivity to cold, and 2) a ten-minute regimen of "Suu-Haa" training via Zoom, lead by Oikawa, with continuous thermographic readings monitored by NHK staff. After the preliminary interview by NHK staff, participants were asked to take off their stocking or socks, and to sit comfortably in a chair with their legs parallel with knees together.

There was a gradual rise in temperature of the palms of all four participants during the ten minutes of "Suu–Haa" training. Although the rise in temperature did not necessarily correspond with age or subjective symptoms, the "Hiye-syo" had diminished immediately after the first implementation of the "Suu–Haa" training. At the end of session, each participant was asked to practice the ten–minute training twice daily, and told that NHK would make a follow-up telephone call after a week to ask about any changes they experienced.

The results are shown in **Fig. 20**. The change in surface skin temperature on the training day, and what our volunteers are saying after one week of "*Suu–Haa*" training, are shown. Volunteer 1 (in her forties); increase of 2.4 degrees centigrade. "I've stopped wearing double layers of socks" "My back and forehead have begun to perspire".

Volunteer 2 (in her forties); increase of 1.3 degrees centigrade. "The palms of my hands have gotten warmer". Volunteer 3 (in her fifties); increase of 0.7 degrees centigrade. "It feels like my bloodflow has gotten better" "My shoulders aren't as stiff as they used to be". Volunteer 4 (in her sixties); increase of 0.9 degrees centigrade. "My hands have begun to perspire" "My fingertips are pink, not white as they used to be".

We saw no issues with the internet connection, use of the Zoom application, or any major difference compared to one-to-one treatment using physical contact in the clinical setting of a clinic, concerning the immediate effect and result of the training, as well as the follow-up of the participants.

Conclusion

It was on the first day (July 19, 2021) of the 48th Annual Meeting of JSBR, that a paper of ours [27] was published online, only a few hours before this symposium. In the paper, we wrote about the history of JSBR and about some of the new approaches based on basic science and clinical practice, which has slowly evolved through the unique medical/engineering/psychological collaborative works of JSBR. We mentioned a bit about the aforementioned "Suu–Haa" Relaxation Technique, and the use of ICT (information and communication technology), which is suitable for noncontact biofeedback during the COVID–19 pandemic.

Through the symposium, we wanted to do something

additional; to review the history and actual use of ICT in the separate fields (outside of JSBR). Using the internet for online communication, and for treating individual clients/patients "real-time," has been a method that professionals in separate fields have been utilizing for many years before the emergence of COVID-19.

On March 22, 2022, the Japanese Government has ceased all "semi-emergency coronavirus measures" issued throughout Japan, in order to lessen the economic impact the restrictions have already had across the country. Though it is much too early to foresee what tomorrow has in store for us, we have learned to communicate with each other and work together as a team; be it one-to-one or online, during the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures forced upon us. With our diligence, patience and resilience, we shall eventually overcome this crisis.

Acknowledgments

The authors thank the members of IEC of JSBR; Yumiko Kato, Hiroyuki Suematsu and Masahito Sakakibara for their assistance in organizing the symposium.

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A Comparative Study of Occlusal Muscle Activity in Patients with Bite Clenching Syndrome and Normal Subjects

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Abstract

[Purpose] The purpose of this study was to investigate the masseter muscle activity during meals in patients with bite clenching syndrome and normal subjects using a simple electromyograph. [Methods] The subjects were one healthy person who was not under dental treatment and one patient with Dental Disstress Syndrome. Recording electrodes were placed on the right masseter muscle, and electromyogram (EMG) was measured at four different times: a: maximum bite, b: minimum bite, c: during gum chewing, and d: during banana chewing. As a result, the average Root Mean Square (RMS) value of each was calculated. [Results] The mean RMS of healthy subjects was a: 1.21 ± 0.21 , b: 0.06 ± 0.01 , c: 0.44 ± 0.20 , d: 0.23 ± 0.05 (μ V), and that of patients was a: 3.35 ± 0.38 , b: 0.07 ± 0.01 , c: 1.14 ± 0.26 , d: 0.40 ± 0.05 (μ V). In the case of gum, the myoelectric amplitude decreased as the gum softened from solid to moist. In addition, the timing of biting was periodic and constant, indicating that the patient was able to chew the gum with saliva. On the contrary, the patient's muscle activity showed that the bite force was not periodic and indefinite. Especially for chewing gum, the myoelectric amplitude increased with repeated chewing of food, indicating that the patient may not be able to grasp the appropriate bite force. [Discussion] The patient's muscle activity is greater during food chewing, and the patient may not be able to grasp the appropriate bite force themself. If these sensory receptors are blocked due to disease, it is possible to compensate and relearn sensation by using visual feedback such as electromyography, auditory feedback. In the case of a disease, there is a possibility that compensation and sensory relearning can be achieved.

Ч Key words ∶ clenching, eating, electromyogram, masseter muscle

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Received : December 30, 2021 Accepted : February 9, 2022

噛み締め症候群患者と健常者の 咬合筋活動の比較

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抄 録

【目的】簡易筋電計を用いて、クレンチングが指摘されている噛み締め症候群患者と健常者における食物形態を変化させた際の食事時の咬筋筋活動を検討した.

【方法】対象は、歯科治療中でない健常者1名と噛み締め症候群患者1名であった。右咬合筋に記録電極を設置し、a:最大咬合、b:最小咬合、c:ガム咀嚼時、d:バナナ咀嚼時の4種の筋電図を測定した。結果として、各々の平均二乗平均平方根(root mean square:RMS)値を算出した。

【結果】健常者の平均 RMS は、 $a:1.21\pm0.21$ 、 $b:0.06\pm0.01$ 、 $c:0.44\pm0.20$ 、 $d:0.23\pm0.05$ (μ V)、患者の平均 RMS は、 $a:3.35\pm0.38$ 、 $b:0.07\pm0.01$ 、 $c:1.14\pm0.26$ 、 $d:0.40\pm0.05$ (μ V) であった。健常者の咀嚼時の特徴として、食物形態が柔らかくなると筋電振幅が下がってくることが確認できた。ガムにおいては、ガムが固形から水分を含み柔らかくなるにしたがって筋電振幅は低下していた。また、咬合のタイミングが周期的で一定であり、唾液と混ぜて咀嚼できている様子が示されていた。反対に、患者の筋活動は咬合力が周期的でなく不定となっていた。とくにガムについては、筋電振幅は食物咀嚼を繰り返すごとに大きくなっており、適切な咬合力を把握できていない可能性があることが示された

【考察】患者の筋活動は食物咀嚼時に大きく、適切な咬合力を把握できていない可能性がある。適切な咬合力の把握には、歯根膜感覚受容器の有無によるところが大きく、これが阻害されている場合は、フィードバックなどを利用することにより、代償や感覚再学習を行える可能性がある。また、安価な簡易筋電計は、日中のクレンチングに対するフィードバックに応用できる可能性がある。

■ キーワード: クレンチング, 食事, 筋電図, 咬筋

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受 付: 2021 年 12 月 30 日 **受 理**: 2022 年 2 月 9 日

1. 目 的

噛む動作に関連する症候のひとつに、ブラキシズムという、上下の歯が不必要に接触している状態がある。これは、歯周組織に咬合性外傷を引き起こす原因となるものである。このブラキシズムは何種類かの状態に分類され、無意識に上下の歯を持続して噛み締める(咬合する)ことをクレンチングという[1]。また、横方向に歯を擦り合わせ、音がでる状態は、グラインディングと呼ばれる。連続的にカチカチと咬合することはタッピングといわれる。この中でも、上下の歯を咬合しすぎてしまうクレンチングは、昼夜を問わず生じるが、日常生活環境下での計測が困難である現象である[2]。

クレンチングは、歯槽骨の圧迫により歯周病、知覚過敏の原因や歯列不正、顎関節症、歯を喪失する原因となるとも言われている。また、頭痛や、肩の痛みの原因になっていることも指摘されており、クレンチングの習慣をなくすことが、さまざまな身体症状の改善につながると言われている。

クレンチングへの対策としては、睡眠中はスプリント法といった。マウスピースなどで睡眠中のクレンチングから歯を守る方法がある。また、日中においては、クレンチングに注意する旨をメモなどに掲示しておくことなどが提案されている[3]。このクレンチングは、自分で気づかないと修正できない症状である。そのため、気づかない為修正できないという悪循環に陥り、改善が認められず症状が悪化する傾向がある。

人間の最大咬合力は74kgf 程度(Gibbs ら, 1984)[4]とされている. 咬合力制御については, 通常, 健常者が咬合する状況は, 安静時では, 上限の歯列は触れず, 1~2 mm の空間が空いているのが正常とされており, 通常筋収縮は生じていない. 食事の際などに強く咬む以外は, 多くの時間はほとんど咬むことはない.

総義歯装着者のように、口腔内に問題のある患者の場合に、咬合力に影響が生ずることは先行研究で述べられている。

Caloss ら(2011)は、健常有歯顎者(以下、健常者)と総義歯装着者の最大咬合力には差があることを報告している [5]. 一方、川良ら(2012)は、筋活動量と Visual Analogue Scale の結果より、総義歯装着者は健常者と異なり、咬合力の強さの調節域が狭く、また、本人が強く咬合するつもりでもそれほど咬合できていない場合や、弱く咬合しているつもりでも実際はやや強めに咬合している場合があることを示している [6]. これらのことから、咬合力の調整には、健常者と総義歯装着者患者ともに、最大咬合力のみならず、咬合力の自覚にも差があることが明らかとなっている.

本研究で取り上げる噛み締め症候群は、総義歯装着者

と同様, 咬合に問題がある疾患であるが, 咬合力調整に ついても総義歯装着者患者と同様に, 最大咬合力の問題 というよりは, 咬合力の調整に問題がある可能性がある.

しかしながら、噛み締め症候群患者の咬合力調整について健常者と比較した報告はない.

本研究では、簡易筋電計を用いて、クレンチングを指摘されている患者において、食物形態を変えた際の咬筋活動を健常者と比較し検討した.

2. 方 法

対象は、歯科治療中でない健常者1名、噛み締め症候群の診断を受けている(クレンチングの指摘を受けている)患者1名であった。両者とも、自由意志にもとづき研究内容の説明に同意し研究に参加した。また、患者については、歯科医の許可のもと本研究に参加した。

年齢は、健常者 35 歳であり、噛み締め症候群患者(以下、患者) 37 歳であった。また、両者とも、性別は男性であり、健常者について、研究参加時に、運動器疾患、神経疾患の既往歴はなかった。患者についても、歯科以外の通院歴はなく、運動器疾患、神経疾患の既往歴はなかった。BMI は、健常者 22.99 kg/m² (172.0 cm, 68.0 kg)、患者 23.94 kg/m² (177.0 cm, 75.0 kg) であった。

計測装置は、Low-cost 2ch EMG biofeedback device (Muraoka ら, 2014) [7] のうちの1チャンネルと汎用コンピュータ (PC) を用いた、この装置は、市販のPC を用いての筋電図モニターが可能であり、低コスト (アンプ本体2.400円)で、精度についても確認されている[8].

記録方法は、両筋電計により測定された筋電信号についてサンプリング周波数 1 kHz にて 10 秒間同時計測した. 筋電信号として微小活動電位を記録するために、筋電計アンプの増幅率を 495 倍と設定した. また、ハムノイズを除去するために、周波数帯域を 79.6 Hz~1940.9 Hz とした. 記録は、フリーソフトのハンディ・オシロスコープ(鳥谷隆)[9]を使用した.

右咬合筋に筋電パッドを設置し、対照電極は額下部に 設置した. 電極間距離は2横指とした (Fig. 1).

筋電図測定は、以下のaからdの4種類の咬合・咀嚼を実施した。全工程において電極を外すことはなかった.

a:最大咬合:強い咬合(5 秒間), b:最小咬合:口を軽く閉じて歯を合わせるのみ(5 秒間), c:ガム咀嚼時(30 秒間咀嚼後の 20 秒間), d:バナナ(2.0 cm 長) 咀嚼時(20 秒間) であった.

解析方法は、筋電図波形を二乗平均平方根(Root Mean Square: RMS)を平均区間 100 ms とし、また、RMS 包 絡線を描くために、この平均区間を1 ms 毎にずらした値も算出した。その後、各々の平均 RMS 値(5 秒間)を平均し算出した。

本研究は常葉大学研究倫理委員会の承認 (研静 17-22) を得て実施した.



Fig. 1 Location of electromyogram attachment EMG pads were attached to the masseter muscle.

3. 結 果

健常者の平均 RMS 値は、a:1.21 ± 0.21 µV, b:0.06 ± $0.01 \,\mu\text{V}, \ c: 0.44 \pm 0.20 \,\mu\text{V}, \ d: 0.23 \pm 0.05 \,\mu\text{V}, \ \text{c.}$ 体重にて正規化すると、a:0.02±0.003 µV/kg, b: $9.405E-04 \pm 9.14E-05 \mu V/kg$, c: $0.006 \pm 0.003 \mu V/kg$, $d: 0.003 \pm 0.0007 \mu V/kg$ であった(**Fig. 2-a**). 患者の平 均 RMS 値は、a: $3.35 \pm 0.38 \mu V$, b: $0.07 \pm 0.01 \mu V$, c: $1.14\pm0.26\,\mu\text{V}$, d: $0.40\pm0.05\,\mu\text{V}$ であった. 体重にて正 規化すると、 $a:0.044\pm0.005\,\mu\text{V/kg}$ 、 $b:0.0009\pm0.0001$ μ V/kg, c: 0.01 ± 0.003 μ V/kg, d: 0.005 ± 0.0007 μ V/kg であり (Fig. 2-b), 患者の咀嚼時の平均 RMS 値の方が 大きい傾向にあった.

また、健常者のガム、バナナ咀嚼時の RMS 波形 (Fig. 3), 患者のガム, バナナ咀嚼時の RMS 波形 (Fig. 4) を 示す. 健常者有歯顎のガム咀嚼時の RMS 波形は徐々に ガムの固形状態が柔らかくなるにしたがい減少していく ことが確認できたが、患者においては、増加していた. また、バナナ咀嚼については、健常者では、バナナの食

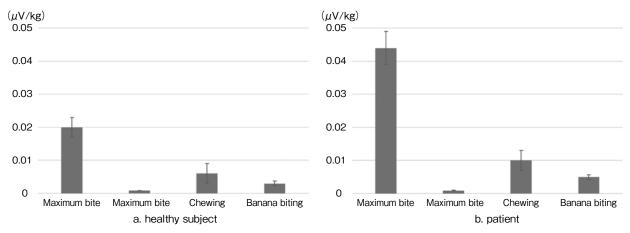


Fig. 2 Average RMS value of healthy subject and patient

- (a) Chewing was showed high value than banana biting.
- (b) Compared to healthy subject, the value of maximum bite and chewing were larger.

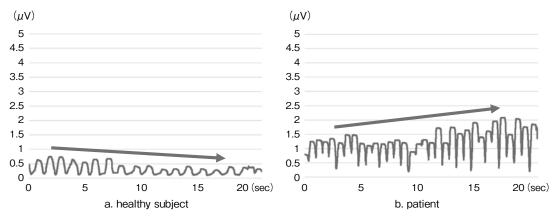


Fig. 3 RMS envelope of healthy subject and patient chewing

- (a) The envelope value was decreasing as chewing.
- (b) The envelope value was unstable and gradually increasing as chewing.

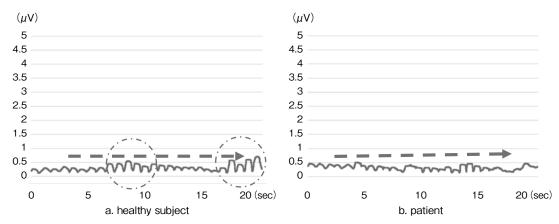


Fig. 4 RMS envelope of of healthy subject and patient biting banana

- (a) The dotted circles area are considered to be chewed and other area are dissolving.
- (b) The envelope value was unstable.

塊を咀嚼していると考えられる強い咬合部分が2箇所と、バナナが柔らかくなり唾液で溶かしていると考えられる弱い咬合が確認できたが、患者の波形では、不規則な波形となっており、確認できなかった.

4. 考 察

健常者の咀嚼時の特徴として、食物形態が柔らかくなると筋電振幅が下がってくることが確認できた。ガムにおいては、ガムが固形から水分を含み柔らかくなるに従って筋電振幅は低下していた。また、咬合のタイミングが周期的で一定であり、唾液と混ぜて咀嚼できている様子が示されていた。反対に、患者の筋活動は咬合力が周期的でなく不定となっていた。とくにガムについては、筋電振幅は食物咀嚼を繰り返すごとに大きくなっており、適切な咬合力を把握できていない可能性があることが示された。

このように、今回の患者の咀嚼時の特徴としては、食物形態が柔らかくなっても筋電振幅が大きいままであり、一定のタイミングで咬合できていないことも確認できた。また、患者の筋活動は食物咀嚼時に大きく、適切な咬合力を把握できていない可能性がある。

活動中の咬合力調整については、田邉(2013)は、食事・会話などの機能運動とクレンチングが生じている非機能運動は筋電図上で識別可能であることを示している[10]が、食事中などの機能運動時の噛み締め症候群患者の筋活動には言及していない。しかしながら、噛み締め症候群患者の訴えの中には、食事中に予想した以上の力で食物を咬合してしまっていることも聞かれ、機能運動時の咬合力調整能力も問題となっている可能性が高い。

藤澤ら(2013)は、携帯型のバイオフィードバック装置を用いて、噛み締め症候群患者における日中のクレンチングコントロールについて報告しており[11]、噛み締

め症候群患者が、クレンチングという症状を呈する原因としては、食感のフィードバックにとって必要な入力情報源としての歯根膜感覚受容器の有無によるところが大きいとしている。この歯根膜感覚受容器の他にも、筋・顎関節・粘膜面・骨膜に存在する感覚受容器からの情報により咬合力は制御されているとされており、口腔内や周囲の感覚受容器からの情報は非常に咬合力調整にとって重要であると考えられる。

噛み締め症候群において、これらの感覚受容器からの情報が阻害され、咬合力調整に困難が生じているとすれば、視覚による筋電図などを用いた筋電バイオフィードバックや、ブザーなどを利用した聴覚バイオフィードバック、また、骨振動刺激などを利用した深部感覚バイオフィードバック、また、骨振動刺激などを利用した深部感覚バイオフィードバックなどを利用することにより、感覚受容器からの情報の代償や、感覚再学習を行える可能性がある。とくに、咀嚼に伴って食物形態が変化するものの場合は、今回の結果より、筋電図が変化することで咬合力調整を視覚化できる可能性が明らかとなったことから、簡易筋電計による筋電バイオフィードバックを利用した咬合力調整学習に応用できることが示唆される。

食事中のクレンチングは本人が気づきにくいという特性があり、安価で身近な簡易筋電計を用いて、食物形態の違いによる食事中の咬合力筋活動制御の傾向が明らかとなれば、簡便に機能運動時の咬合力調整能力への対策をとることが可能となると考える.

本研究の限界として、今回は1症例のみから採取したデータであり、本研究の結果を直ちに一般化することはできない、また、さまざまな食物での変化を見ていく必要があると考えられる。例えば、キャラメル(粘り)、するめ(硬さ)、とうふ(柔らかい)など食べ物の硬さや柔らかさ、粘性に応じて咀嚼時の筋電波形やパターンに患者の特性が現れるのかを確認する必要がある。

5. まとめ

簡易筋電計を用いて噛み締め症候群患者と健常者にお ける食事時の咬筋の筋活動を検討した. 患者の筋活動は 食物咀嚼時に大きく、不定な傾向があり、適切な噛み締 める力を把握できていない可能性がある. 今後. 簡易筋 電計による筋電バイオフィードバックは、噛み締める力 の調整の運動学習に応用できることが示唆される.

本論文は、第48回日本バイオフィードバック学会に おいて発表した内容を加筆、修正したものである.

本論文に関連し、開示すべき利益相反関連事項はない.

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Application of modified Rhythmical Skeletal Muscle Tension (RSMT) —For a Case of Essential Tremor—

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Abstract

[Introduction] Heart rate variability biofeedback (HRV-BF) has been clinically applied to both physical and psychological disorders. An HRV-BF study using rhythmical 0.1 Hz (6 times per minute) skeletal muscle tension (RSMT) instead of respiratiory approach has been reported in the past which seems to bring about the same resonance effect of the cardiovascular system. We devised a modified-RSMT-method, using a repetitive wrist dorsiflexion (grasping) with finger group flexion for 5 seconds, and wrist joint palmar, extension (releasing) with finger group extension for 5 seconds. Application of this method resulted in improvement of a patient with essential tremor. Consent for reporting of this study has been obtained from the patient, and there are no conflicts of interest to be disclosed.

[Subject and method] The subject was a teenage woman who presented with essential tremor continuing for 8 months after a traffic accident. She was introduced to our Rehabilitation Department, at the time of scrutiny hospitalization in the Neurology Department. After we explained the aforementioned method, she sat in a chair, with her upper limbs placed on a desk. We taught the patient to repetitively "grasp" and "release", by calling out at 5-second intervals, and had her practice for 5 minutes. The effect was judged by her actual writing (graphology) and video recording, and treatment continued for 4 days.

[Results and discussion] The patient immediately felt a decrease in the amplitude of the essential tremor from the first intervention, and she also felt "calm". On the 4th day (the day of her discharge), her head and lower limb's symptoms had disappeared, and her graphological collapse was significantly improved. After her discharge, she practiced at home for 11 weeks. When she returned to the hospital on Day 78, she told us that although she felt a strong tremor at times, she felt the tremor decrease after her self–practice. We saw her tremor improve just by her sitting and relieving her tension. The modified–RSMT–method can be easily practiced, and may be applicable to a wide range of diseases.

Key words: heart rate variability biofeedback, rhythmical skeletal muscle tension, essential tremor

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Received: January 25, 2022 Accepted: February 21, 2022

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■ 症例報告

Rhythmical Skeletal Muscle Tension (RSMT) 変法の検討 —本態性振戦を呈した一症例に対して—

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抄 録

【はじめに】心拍変動バイオフィードバック(以下、HRV-BF)は、身体的・心理的障害に対して臨床的に応用されてきた。その中の一つの方法として、呼吸ではなくリズミカルな骨格筋緊張(rhythmical skeletal muscle tension;以下、RSMT)によって、HRV-BFにおける 0.1 Hz(6 回/分)の心臓血管系の共鳴効果をもたらす研究が報告されている。今回、我々は RSMT 変法として 5 秒間の手指集団屈曲を伴う手関節背屈運動後、5 秒間の手指集団伸展を伴う手関節掌屈運動を考案し、本態性振戦の症例で改善を得られたので報告する。対象患者からは同意を得ており、開示すべき利益相反はない。

【対象と方法】対象は、交通事故後に本態性振戦を呈して8カ月持続した10代女性. 精査入院に併せてリハビリテーション科を紹介され、受診. はじめに実施方法を説明したところ、机上に上肢を設置して行うことを自己選択. 「握って」「離して」と5秒間隔の声掛けによって指導し、5分間実践した. 実施期間は4日間、書字とビデオ撮影によって効果判定をおこなった.

【結果と考察】介入初日より直ちに本態性振戦の振幅減少を確認し、本人は「心が落ち着く感じ」と実感. 4日目(退院日)には頭部・下肢の症状は消失し、字体崩れは大幅に改善を認めた. 退院後、11週間自宅で練習していただいた. 再来院時に、まだ振戦は強く感じている時間帯はあるようだが、自己練習直後に楽になっていることを話された. 当日も座って緊張を除去するだけで振戦の改善を得られた. RSMT 変法は簡便に実践できるため、幅広い疾患に適応できる可能性が示唆された.

🖣 キーワード:心拍変動バイオフィードバック,rhythmical skeletal muscle tension,本態性振戦

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1. はじめに

心拍変動バイオフィードバック (以下、HRV-BF) は 一拍ごとの心拍間隔の変化率(心拍のゆらぎ)を捉え, 増大させる技法である. この技法のメカニズムや効果な どの全体像については榊原ら[1]の論文に詳しいため省 略するが、HRV-BF はストレスに関連する身体的・心理 的障害に対して臨床応用され、 さまざまな症状の緩和に 対して有用性が示されている [2]. HRV-BF 訓練プロト コルの初期セッションでは、心拍変動を効率よく増大さ せるのに適した呼吸のペースを習得するための練習が必 要とされているが、その際には過換気症状(立ちくらみ、 しびれ、動悸、めまい、不安感) に気をつけるように促 し、教示する[3]、とされている、呼吸法未経験の健常 者を対象にした報告[4]では、より心身をリラックスさ せる有効な方法として紹介されている一方、呼吸器疾患 に罹患している症例や認知機能や知的機能の障害によっ てプロトコルを遵守できない症例については、今後、研 究を展開していく必要があると著者らは推測する. ま た.ペース呼吸習得まで継続的な関わりが求められるこ とも、課題の一つであろう. その中、0.1 Hz の "リズミ カルな骨格筋緊張" (rhythmical skeletal muscle tension; 以下、RSMT) によって、HRV-BF における心血管系の 共鳴効果をもたらした[5]という研究が報告された. つ まりは、1分間に骨格筋を6回の緊張と弛緩を繰り返し、 3セットを反復する RSMT を実施した結果, 血管迷走神 経反応に有効であるというこれまでの観察結果と一致 し、その経路が圧反射の共鳴特性を介していることを示 しているものだった. そこで今回, RSMT をもとに共著 者の及川が考案した一変法(以下, RSMT 変法)を一症 例に対して実践した、RSMT 変法は、5 秒間の手関節背 屈運動を伴う手指集団屈曲後、5秒間の脱力を反復する 方法であり、従来の RSMT と比較してもより簡便、かつ 幅広い症例に導入・実践できることが特徴である、過換 気と本態性振戦 (essential tremor;以下, ET) を呈した 一症例に対して RSMT 変法を実践した結果, 改善を得ら れたため考察を加えて報告する. 最大限の利益を尊重 し、今後の最善の医療提供を目的とする説明をした上で 本人からは治療同意を得ており、ヘルシンキ宣言に則り 保護責任は常に医療者にあり、同意をした後にもそれが 転嫁されることがないことを保証した.

2. 症例

2・1 症例

A氏, 女性, 高校生 (16歳).

2・2 主訴

両側の手指のふるえ.

2・3 既往歴

太田母斑 (幼少期にレーザー治療済み).

2・4 家族歴

母:乳がん.

2.5 生活歴

市内の高校に電車を利用して通学. 父母との3人暮らし. 喫煙歴・飲酒歴なし.

2.6 現病歴

X-1年夏. 母親の運転する自家用車の後部座席に乗 車していた際に、右側から乗用車に衝突され、右側の頭 部や肩甲部を打撲. その1時間程あとから両側の手指が ふるえることを自覚した. 同日. 休日救急当番のB病院 を受診し、頭部 CT を撮像したが明らかな異常を指摘さ れなかった. 手指のふるえが消失しないため. 一週間後 にC病院の整形外科を受診し、頭部 MRI を撮像したが、 そこでも異常指摘は受けなかった. さらに3日後, C病 院の紹介を受けて D 病院の脳神経内科を受診し. 頸椎 MRI を撮像したが明らかな異常は指摘されず経過観察 となった. 受傷後約1カ月半経過しても症状が改善しな いことから、D病院より旭川医科大学病院(以下, 当院) の脳神経内科に相談があり初診となった. これまで他院 で撮像された画像や問診により診察したが原因は究明さ れず、セカンドオピニオンとして E 病院の脳神経内科を 紹介. 内服薬(抑肝散)で経過をみていたが、受傷後約 2カ月より口唇や下肢のふるえも出現するようになり, 症状が持続したことから家族より再精査の依頼があり. X年1月4日, 当院脳神経内科へ入院となった. その際, 主科よりリハビリテーション(以下、リハビリ)科が紹 介を受け、リハビリ科医の処方のもと理学療法 (Physical Therapy; 以下, PT) と作業療法 (Occupational Therapy; 以下, OT) のリハビリが開始となった。また、今回の入 院は同年1月7日までの4日間のみの入院となっており、 その後は再びE病院にてフォローアップしている. 内服 薬は一貫として漢方エキス製剤の抑肝散 (7.5g・分3) 一 剤のみである.

2·7 一般身体所見

身長 153.1 cm, 体重 47.6 kg (BMI 20.3), 血圧 128/82 mmHg, 脈拍 82/分・整, 体温 37.1℃, 右利き, 呼吸数 (1 回目 24 回/分, 2 回目 20 回/分, 3 回目 20 回/分).

2.8 神経学的所見

2・8・1 口唇のふるえ

聞き取りにくさは感じない程度だが、話しにくさの自覚あり.

2・8・2 両側手指のふるえ

10~12 Hz の動作時振戦を両側に認め、特に第Ⅲ/Ⅳ指を屈曲する際に増悪傾向あり.右側のみ静止した際にも手指の姿勢時振戦の出現を認めた.初発からの増悪なしとのこと.

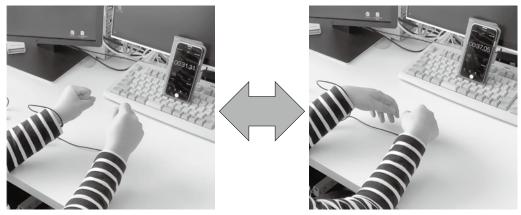


Fig. 1 Modified-RSMT-method

Tension is maintained for 5 seconds by dorsiflexing the wrist joint while flexing the fingers, and relaxation is maintained for 5 seconds by relaxing the wrist joint while extending the fingers. One cycle is 10 seconds. The therapist repeats "Grip" and "Release", while a stopwatch is presented for visual timing.

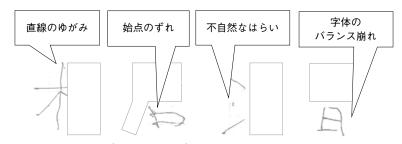


Fig. 2 Handwriting (Graphological) Analysis: at the time of initial intervention The straight line is distorted, the starting point is deviated, the sweep is unnatural, and the handwriting is unbalanced.

2・8・3 下肢のふるえ

10~12 Hz の姿勢時振戦が右下肢に荷重時に出現.

2·9 初回介入時所見

体格は均整の取れた中肉中背, 顔色は色白. 緊張した 面持ちであり抑うつ的な印象を持ったが, 会話にて笑顔 をみせる. 話し方は穏やかでゆったりとしており, やや 小声. 自身の今の状態や事故当初の様子など詳細に説明 することができる. 日常生活は問題なく過ごせているが 文字を書きにくいことで困っていると話し, 授業は友人の協力を得られるがテストの答案を書く時が一番困る, と訴えが聞かれた.

3. RSMT 変法について

手関節背屈を伴う手指集団屈曲によって緊張を 5 秒間 持続し、その後、5 秒間の脱力による弛緩を繰り返す. 10 秒 1 サイクルとなるように「(力を) 入れて一」「(力を) 抜いて一」と声掛けしたり、ストップウォッチを提示してコントロールする方法もある。姿勢は余計な姿勢 時緊張が入らないように、自身がリラックスできる安楽姿勢を選択してもらい、A 氏は座位でおこなうことを選択した (Fig. 1).



Fig. 3 CheckMyHeart®
Changes in autonomic nervous system balance due to physiological fluctuation of the heart and stress can

4. 治療経過(入院介入4回,外来介入1回)

4·1 入院時初回介入

be analyzed.

若年であり、緊張した面持ちであった印象, また, 発症から複数の病院を受診していた背景などから, カルテから情報収集が可能な内容についての問診は最小限にと

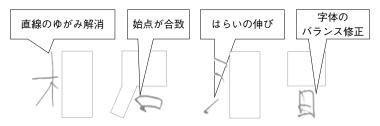


Fig. 4 Changes in Handwriting after 1st day of intervention

The distortion of the straight line has been resolved, the starting point is aligned, the sweep is naturally extended, and the balance of the characters has been corrected. However, although patient's name is written with the same pen as on the first day, the pen pressure is high overall, and there is a tendency to try to control with the pen pressure.



Fig. 5 Changes in Handwriting on the 4th day (the last day) of intervention

The distortion of the straight line is eliminated, the starting point is more stable, and the sweep is more steady. Although the writing pressure of the characters is stable, the balance of the four characters is unstable, and unevenness remained.

どめ、神経心理学的検査の一部は脳神経内科と PT の診察記録より情報収集をおこなった。初回介入では全身の神経学的診察を実施した。治療の効果判定のため名前を記載していただき (**Fig. 2**)、直線のゆがみ、始点のずれ、不自然なはらい、字体のバランス崩れが全体で著明にみられていることが確認された。

そこで、RSMT 変法による biofeedback(以下、BF)を 指導し、実践した。同時に心臓の生理的なゆらぎや自律 神経バランスの変化をチェックするため、心拍変動(以 下、HRV)の解析がおこなえるポータブル心拍変動測定 器「チェックマイハート®」による測定を実施した(Fig. 3). HRV 測定は入院時初回介入(初回)のリハビリ介入 前、4回目(退院前)のリハビリ介入後、外来リハビリ の介入前(BF前)、外来リハビリの介入後(BF後)の 計4回実施している。

1日目介入後の書字の変化を Fig. 4 に示す. 直線のゆがみは解消し、始点が合致、はらいが伸びており、字体のバランスが修正されているのが確認された. 同じペンで名前を記載しているが、全体的に介入後のほうは筆圧が高く、それによってコントロールしようとする傾向がみえた.

余暇時間に RSMT 変法を実施していただくため、自主トレーニングとして提案し、その方法や頻度について指導した。まずは、1日2回(リハビリの OT で行った際

は1回とカウント)の5分1セットを実施するように伝えた. RSMT 変法実施後は、特に著明なふるえを認めていた第Ⅲ・Ⅳ指屈曲時も含め手指の動作時振戦は軽減し、即時効果がみてとれた. A 氏の反応としても、「心が落ち着く感じがします」と精神的な安寧も得られ、受け入れは良好だった.

4・2 2. 3回目介入

入院時初回介入と同様に RSMT 変法をリハビリの OT で実践した. その後, 自主トレーニングの実施状況について確認し, 実践してみた感想や疑問についてフィードバックやアドバイスを行った. A 氏は 2, 3 日目ともに自主トレーニングを継続して行っていた. A 氏の反応として,「即時(効果)にはいいですね」,「(ふるえが)だいぶ止まってます」とふるえの軽減を自覚され, 手軽に行うことができることや, 字が書きやすくなったなど, 効果を認める言動が聞かれていた. また, 口唇や下肢のふるえは消失し, PT のリハビリ介入は入院時初回介入(入院2日目)のみで終了となった. 同日, 髄液検査, 頭部・頚椎 MRI や生理学検査(脳波, 心電図)を実施したが, いずれも異常所見を認めなかった.

4・3 4回目介入

介入最終日に改めて自身の名前を記載していただき, 効果判定をおこなった(**Fig. 5**). 直線のゆがみは解消し, 始点が合致, はらいが安定したことが確認された. また,

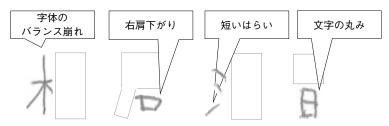


Fig. 6 Handwriting during outpatient rehabilitation; 78 days after discharge

Compared to the time of discharge, the handwriting (graphology) is unbalanced, the letters slant toward the right, the sweep is short, and the letters look rounded as a whole. The change in pen pressure is due to the type of pen being different, and although the overall balance is out of order compared to when patient was discharged, the results can not be simply compared with results from during hospitalization.



Fig. 7 Handwriting after outpatient rehabilitation intervention (Day 78) with modified-RSMT-method

The distortion of the handwriting has reduced, the right ward-slant characters has improved, and the writing pressure has become lighter, more smooth and stable. However, an overall collapse is recognized, and remains an issue.

文字の筆圧コントロールも安定したが、全体の字体のバランスは崩れている部分が見受けられ、課題として残存した.

手指の動作時振戦は入院時初回介入後よりもさらに軽減し、スムーズな手指運動が可能となっていることが確認され、特に前腕回内位でおこなった際には、ほとんどふるえを認めなかった。A氏の反応としても、「来た時よりだいぶ良くなりました」と、改善を自覚して退院に至ることができた。主科の治療については入院前からの内服薬(抑肝散)を継続していた他は特になく、最終日に実施した核医学検査(SPECT)についても明らかな異常所見は認めず、退院後はE病院にて経過をみる方針となった。退院直前にはRSMT変法を自宅で継続していただくため、退院時指導として朝・夕の計2回、これまで通り5分1セットを行うように提案した。

4・4 外来リハビリ介入(退院から78日後)

退院から78日後に、外来を受診していただいた.その際、これまでの治療場面には不在だった母親が初めて同席した. A氏は「ふるえは気にならなくなってきた」と話し、書字のしづらさはさほど感じていないようだった.

入院中と同様に座った状態で RSMT 変法を実施し、前 後で自身の名前を記載していただいた。 RSMT 変法実施 前の書字では、当院退院時と比較すると字体のバランス は崩れている傾向にあり、右肩下がりの文字、はらいは短く、全体的に文字に丸みが感じられた。ペンの種類は異なるため筆圧の変化は捉えられなかったが、退院時よりも全体の字体のバランスは崩れているように見られた(Fig. 6).

RSMT 変法実施後の書字では、ゆがみは軽減し、右肩下がりの文字は解消され、筆圧が一定したスムーズな書字となったことが確認された(Fig. 7). 全体の字体のバランス崩れが見受けられ課題として残存したが、自覚的なふるえの軽減効果は得られ、A氏の反応としても自主トレーニングとして RSMT 変法の継続意思が聞かれるなど、受け入れは継続して良好だった.

その後,退院後の生活状況について聴取したが,頭頚部の筋緊張が異常に亢進し,それにより頭重感が強く学校に半日しか登校ができていないといった悩みが聞かれた.触診したところ,訴えの通り頭頸部の筋緊張異常を呈しており,それに対して対処療法としてストレッチを本人・母親へ指導した.

4・5 チェックマイハート®と呼吸数について

HRV Total power については初回と退院前, 退院から 78 日後の外来での BF 前と BF 後で RSMT 変法によって 漸増している. また, 退院前には very low frequency (以下, VLF) 値は 367 を示し一旦交感神経優位となるが,

	, .		,	
	入院		外来	
	初回	4回目(退院前)	BF 前	BF 後
Total Power	435	911	723	1273
RMSSD	34.66	34.16	35.43	39.9
NN50	63	62	74	95
pNN50	13.94	14	16.89	23.11
VLF	36	367	162	217
LF	98	245	147	307
HF	300	298	413	747
normalized VLF%	8.28	40.29	22.41	17.05
normalized HF%	68.97	32.71	57.12	58.68
呼吸数	24/20/20	18/17/18	15/16/15	15/15/14

Table 1 CheckMyHeart® Results and Respiratory Rate

"Total power" gradually increased from the first to fourth session before discharge, and also before and after modified-RSMT-method in the outpatient rehabilitation department 78 days after discharge. The value and ratio of HF are high from the first session, and the parasympathetic nerve is always predominant. Furthermore, the pNN50 before and after Modified-RSMT-method shows a high value, showing that the function of the vagus nerve is activated. Respiratory rate gradually calms down and is within normal range during outpatient rehabilitation.

それ以外は初回から総じて high frequency (以下, HF) 値の比率が高く, 副交感神経優位の状態にあることが特徴として挙げられる. 呼吸数は 1 分間における安静時の呼吸回数を計 3 回測定した. 安静時正常な人の呼吸数は 1 分間に 12~15 回とされているため [6], 初回の 24 回・20 回・20 回/分の呼吸回数は頻呼吸であることを認めたが, その後は徐々に落ち着き, 外来リハビリで対応した時には正常範囲となっている.

5. 考察

5・1 RSMT 変法の実践について

ETとは、その発生機序は不明だが上肢に最も多くみられ、軽微なものから日常生活動作が困難になるものまでさまざまとされる [7]. その発生分類には孤発性が存在し、何かしらの環境以外の要因、つまりは散発的または突発的にふるえが現れることが特徴にある疾患である. A氏においても核医学検査等をおこなったが ETの原因特定には至らず、因果関係の判断は困難とされた. また、ET に対する代表的な治療として薬物療法が挙げられるが [7]. A氏においては漢方1剤のみで症状出現から数カ月の期間が経過した. 交通事故直後よりふるえが出現した因果関係はありそうだが、急激な緊張状態によるストレスが起因の一つであると推測された.

入院オリエンテーション時、おどおどして話そうとしない娘に対して、「はっきりしゃべりなさい!」と大きな声で言い聞かせる母との親子間の関係性も、少なからず持続因子として影響していたことも想像できる。退院から78日後の外来受診時、初めて母親が同席した状況も、A氏にとってはストレス因子として働いていた可能性がある。

HRV-BF はうつ病 [8] や線維筋痛症 [9], PTSD [10]

などのストレス関連疾患に適用され、症状の軽減に有用 であり、いずれも HRV が増大することを報告している. また, ET に対して BF を実施した報告もあり [11, 12], 一定の効果が得られたとしている. しかし. いずれの報 告においても Medical Doctor によるもので、過去を遡っ ても心身機能の回復・維持・強化を図るために直接対峙 するリハビリセラピストにおける介入報告は少ない. 共 著者である及川は当院のリハビリテーション科医だが, 認定バイオフィードバック技能士の資格を有しており、 長年に渡り BF と HRV-BF の臨床適応について研究を重 ねている [1, 13, 14]. リハビリ分野の発展に向けて, HRV-BFによるリハビリへの臨床応用について日頃から 議論していたが、今回実践した RSMT 変法においては、 HRV-BF における心血管系の共鳴効果をもたらしたとさ れる RSMT [5] をもとに及川が考案し、その考えに共感 した著者は適応となる症例を待ち受けていたところ、本 症例について及川より紹介され、リハビリ処方で OT と して介入できた.

従来の HRV-BF を実践するためにはペース呼吸の習得が必要とされ [3], A氏のように過呼吸などの呼吸器疾患を有している症例にとって、呼吸をコントロールすることは容易ではなく、それによって過換気や息切れなどあらゆる呼吸症状の増悪を招くリスクが潜在する. RSMT 変法は手指の握り込みと脱力を反復するという簡便な方法であり、かつ実践することによる健康リスクは非常に少ないと予測されることが特徴として挙げられる. また、視覚的にもわかりやすい手段であり、認知機能や知的機能に障害をきたしている症例にとっても導入を検討しやすい手法であると考える.

5・2 チェックマイハート[®]と呼吸について(**Table 1**) HRV への自律神経系の関与をみると、HF は副交感神 経のみの支配, low frequency (以下, LF) は副交感神経と交感神経 [副交感神経>交感神経], VLF は交感神経の支配とされている「13].

HRV は、副交感神経活動が低下している場合には小さ くなる[15]が、A氏は入院時より総じてHRV Total Power に占めるHFの割合が大きい. ETの一般的な治療アルゴ リズムの一つである薬物療法は、第一選択薬として交感 神経遮断薬および抗てんかん薬となる [7]. つまりは交 感神経が過剰に興奮し、働きが活発になるとふるえが強 まると捉える. また、尾仲 [16] は、誰しもが納得する 「ストレス」の定義はないとしながら、多くの生理学者に とってストレス刺激は交感神経・副腎髄質系の賦活化 (ノルアドレナリン・アドレナリンの放出)を誘発する刺 激と、内因性あるいは外因性の力をストレッサー、ホメ オスタシスを乱すおそれがある状態のことをストレスと する定義とほとんど同義であるとしている. このことよ り、A氏が呈していた ET が予測し難い交通事故による 急激なストレスが要因とした場合、VLF が高まっている ことが想定された. しかし A 氏は, 入院時初回介入(初 回)のリハビリ介入前ではHF優位であり一般的にリ ラックスとされる状態にあることがわかる. そして退院 前にはVLFが高まることで交感神経が優位となるが、外 来にて再び HF 優位に戻るなど浮動的である. 仮説とし て、交通事故によって急激なストレスが加わり、HRV の stimuli は呼吸によって引き起こされたとすれば、元来、 A 氏は副交感神経を優位に働かせることで心身のバラン スをコントロールする体質であり、ふるえに対して呼吸 数を速くすることで交感神経の働きを賦活させてコント ロールしていた可能性が考えられた. 外来での RSMT 変 法の実施前後においても HF・VLF ともに高まり、入院 時においては VLF は HFよりも高い増加となっている. このことからも、RSMT 変法によって交感神経が賦活し 自律神経が活性化され、本来の副交感神経優位である正 常な状態のままふるえの軽減が図られ、安定した書字が 可能となったことに繋がったと考える.

また、外来でのBF実施前には、A氏の正常な状態と思われる副交感神経優位のまま呼吸数は統制されていることから、入院中の介入効果は持続できていたと考える。その上で、RSMT変法を実施した結果、副交感神経が高いまま HRV Total Power が高まり、迷走神経の働きが賦活していることから、呼吸などの代償を用いずに受動的にリラックスした状態に誘導できたと考える。また、自律神経系活動全体の指標である HRV Total Powerが BF 前後で高い増加をみせているが、特に外来での BF 実施後は退院前と比較しても高値かつ高い増加が得られている。このことからも自律神経系が賦活されたことは明らかであり、結果として筋緊張異常の調整やふるえの軽減、書字の安定が得られたと捉えた。

6. おわりに

今回の症例において、BF介入前後に2回ずつHRV測定を実施し、自律神経の変動について推察したが、再現性の良さを表すためには3回以上の測定が望ましい。コロナ禍において、一回のリハビリの介入時間が制限された背景があり、標準誤差が十分に示せていないことは研究の限界として挙げられる。しかし、4日間で入院治療が終結したことを考えると、タイムリミットがあり十分なラポール形成と学習効果を定着させられなかった状況でも、ここまで治療効果を得られたことから今回実践したRSMT変法は、短時間かつ簡便に実践することができ、幅広い症例に対して効果的な介入手段となる可能性が示唆された。今後は実践症例を増やして効果を検証し、RSMT変法の有用性とリハビリへの臨床応用の可能性について検討を続けたい。

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第 49 回・第 50 回 日本バイオフィードバック学会学術総会のお知らせ

第49回・第50回日本バイオフィードバック学会学術総会の開催予定をお知らせいたします.

■第49回日本バイオフィードバック学会学術総会

会期:2022年6月18日(土):19日(日)

会場:早稲田大学

総会会長:岩田浩康(早稲田大学理工学術院創造理工学部)(工学系)

URL: https://www.waseda.jp/assoc-bf2022/

■第50回日本バイオフィードバック学会学術総会

会期:2023年6月17日(土)・18日(日) 会場:東洋英和女学院大学(横浜キャンパス)

総会会長:小林能成(東洋英和女学院大学人間科学部)(心理系)

日本バイオフィードバック学会事務局

日本バイオフィードバック学会 2021 年度第 2 回理事会議事録

日時: 2022年1月17日(月)19時~20時

場所:zoom 会議

出席:端詰勝敬,飯田俊穂,岩田浩康,及川欧,大須賀美恵子,神原憲治,加藤由美子,小林能成,榊原雅人,志和資朗,志田有子,竹内武昭,成瀬九美,平岡厚,廣田昭久,星野聡子,松野俊夫,宮本芳文,山口浩,山川烈(敬称略)

報告事項

- 1. 各委員会報告
- 1)編集委員会(榊原理事)
 - ・ホームページ上の「バイオフィードバック研究」執筆要項(2021 年 4 月)のホームページ改編が完了した. 投稿申請書 (邦文・英文表紙),著作権譲渡に関する同意書,利益相反自己申告書が当該ページから直接ダウンロードできるようになった.
 - ・機関誌発行状況報告:第48巻2号,第49巻1号
 - ・論文投稿および審査状況報告
- 2) 企画広報委員会(中尾理事・端詰理事)
 - ・第49回大会に向けて企画を準備中
- 3) 国際交流委員会(及川理事)
 - ・海外のバイオフィードバック機関とも連絡をとり、企画を検討中
- 4) 倫理委員会(端詰理事)
 - ・役員への COI 申請書を送付済み
- 5) 総務委員会(山口理事)
 - ・HP 管理と充実に向けての新委員会設置が提案された.
- 6) 資格認定委員会(廣田理事)
 - ・第33回 UPM 大会中に学会主催講習会を実施する.

第 33 回大会 開催: 2022 年 3 月 12 日 (土) オンライン開催 小田切優子会長

オンデマンド視聴期間:2022年3月16日(水)~4月15日(金)

座長:神原憲治先生(香川大学医学部臨床心理学科心身医学)

「バイオフィードバックとチーム医療」

講師:小山明子先生, 柊 未聖先生(東邦大学医学部心身医学講座)

「バイオフィードバックの生理・生化・心理学的指標:過去と未来の四半世紀を展望」

講師:中尾睦宏先生(国際医療福祉大学医学部心療内科学)

- 7) 日心連について(端詰理事)
 - ・心理検定の名称についての日心連の経過報告
- 2. 日本自律訓練学会 第 45 回大会でのコラボについて (端詰理事)
 - ・日本自律訓練学会と日本バイオフィードバック学会との交流を強化したい. その一環で、日本自律訓練学会でコラボシンポジウムを企画する.
- 3. 学術大会
 - ·第48回総会大会長(飯田先生)終了報告
 - ・第49回総会大会長(岩田先生)資料に基づいて経過報告
- 4. 選挙について (端詰理事)
 - ·iVote を用いた選挙システムのデモの紹介

5. 学会会費長期滞納者について

・3年連続滞納者について名簿を送っている。知り合いがいれば、理事の先生方から声掛けをお願いしたい。

審議事項

1. 新・学会 HP 企画管理委員会の設置について

- ・山口理事より、新委員会の役割説明
 - ○実際の HP の維持管理・改変といった技術的作業を行うのは業者であり、その業者に対して指示をするという「統括的指示・管理」業務
 - ○また今後の HP 魅了度アップのために企画立案(企画の取捨選択も含め)や学会員に対する必要に応じた指示(アドバイスなど)業務
 - ○学術総会のシンポジウムなどの録画の企画や作業アドバイスおよび HP アップのための(業者への) 指示など
- ・学会 HP 企画管理委員会を新設することが承認された.
- ・新委員会の委員長として、端詰理事長より浦谷裕樹理事が推薦され、承認された.

2. 選挙管理員の選出について

・選挙管理員として3名が承認された. 宮本副理事長,廣田副理事長,中尾副理事長

以上

複写される方へ

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バイオフィードバック研究 第49巻 第1号

Japanese Journal of Biofeedback Research Vol. 49 No. 1

2022 年 4 月 25 日発行

日本バイオフィードバック学会

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郵便振替 00180-3-710249

印刷所 三報社印刷株式会社

東京都江東区亀戸7丁目2番12号

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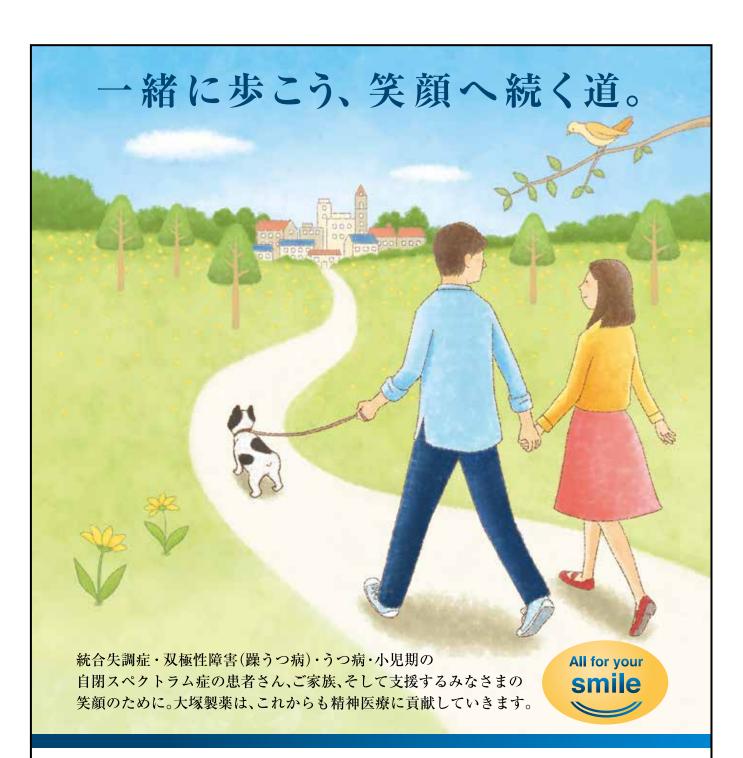


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EFX72K008B P13330v01

JAPANESE JOURNAL OF BIOFEEDBACK RESEARCH Volume 49 No.1 2022

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