

1992; Simon et al. 1993) and because MCS cases complained of a large number of mental symptoms, some researchers think that MCS is a manifestation of former psychiatric disorder such as depression, anxiety, and/or somatization disorders (Brodsky 1983,1987; Stewart 1985; Scottenfeld and Cullen 1986 b; Terr 1986; Black et al.1990; Simon et al. 1990; Studenmayer et al. 1993). They also point out the similarities between MCS and former psychiatric disorder such as post-traumatic stress disorder (Scottenfeld and Cullen 1986 b), somatization disorder (Brodsky 1983), and obsessive compulsive personality disorder (Rosenberg et al. 1990). However, no consistent understanding of the etiology or pathology has been obtained and there is no conclusion on whether the etiology is a physical or psychogenic one or a combination of these two. Therefore, it is impossible to conclude whether MCS is identical to psychiatric disorders or not at the present time. But, there is a need to describe the features of psychiatric or psychological state in MCS.

Previous studies (Doty et al, 1988; Simon et al, 1990 and 1993) pointed out that MCS had significantly more depressive symptomatology than controls by questionnaires. Brown-DeGagne et al. (1998) evaluated 42 patients of MCS with the Beck Depression Inventory (BDI), to classify the results into subscales related with cognition-affective symptoms and those related with somatic-performance and compared them with outpatients of depression. The patients of MCS tended to complain more of somatic-performance related to subscales than did the cases of depression. From this result, the authors pointed out the necessity of paying attention to the following two possibilities in the judgement of depressive seriousness: the total score of BDI may overestimate the depressive seriousness and the patients of MCS are apt to express symptomatic depression in their physical complaints.

Simons et al. (1993) reported that the patients with chemical sensitivity had greater prevalence of current anxiety and depressive disorder than controls (44% versus 15%). However, this difference did not appear to precede the onset of chemical sensitivity, and 25% of chemically sensitive patients showed no significant current psychological disturbance.

On the other hand, one study (Selner and Studenmayer, 1992) indicated no differences between individuals with MCS and controls with regard to depressive symptomatology.

Therefore, we examined whether the patients of MCS had stronger anxiety and depression than those of other diseases among new and follow-up patients.

SUBJECTS and METHODS

Subjects

This study was performed on 46 cases of MCS and 46 controls from July 1, 1998 to May 11, 1999. Subjects included those who visited the ophthalmologic outpatient clinic at Kitasato University Hospital for suspected MCS either by themselves or after being introduced from other physicians. The possibility of other diseases was

denied and the diagnostic criteria of Cullen were satisfied in the subjects. The diagnosis of MCS was made by doctors other than the evaluators of their mental state. In order not to include the same subjects in both groups of the first and subsequent examinations, the investigated cases upon the first examination were excluded from the subsequent examination.

Those having other diseases upon their first and subsequent visits in the same clinic were designated as the "control". Gender and age matched patients of the control group were collected by randomly examining those who consented to this investigation after an oral explanation was provided on the purpose and method of investigation and how the obtained data was to be used. The diseases in the control groups were retinal and vitreous body diseases (17.2%), diseases of the crystalline lens (10.3%), palpebral diseases (10.3%), squint and external ophthalmoplegia (10.3%) in the new patients, and retinal and vitreous body diseases (52.9%), diseases of the crystalline lens (11.8%), and palpebral diseases (11.8%) in the follow-up patients.

The average ages and standard deviations of all subjects are shown in Table 1. The mean ages of MCS were 42.6 years (S.D.=15.4) and those of controls were 42.5 years (S.D.=15.4). The mean ages showed no significant difference between MCS and controls in all subjects and each group of gender and new or follow-up cases. Also, the mean ages had no statistical difference between the new patients and the follow-up patients in each subject group.

Methods of investigation and its evaluation for mental states

The State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI, Japanese version, Sankyobo, Kyoto), a questionnaire anxiety test originally developed by Spielberger (1970), was used for evaluating anxiety. For evaluating depression, the Self-rating Depression Scale (SDS, Japanese version, Sankyobo), a questionnaire depression test originally developed by Zung (1965), and the Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression (HRS, Japanese version) (Hamilton 1960) an interview evaluation of depression for doctors were used.

STAI consisted of state anxiety and trait anxiety tests including 20 questions for each for a total of 40. Each question was rated at 1 to 4 points and the greater the score, the stronger the anxiety was assumed to be. According to the manuals of both state anxiety and trait anxiety tests in the Japanese versions, there were five grades of evaluation criteria. According to the manuals of state-trait anxiety inventory in Japanese versions, there were five grades of evaluation criteria. In the state anxiety test, for males, 22 points or less, 23 to 31 points, 32 to 40 points, 41 to 49 points and 50 points or more were judged "very low", "low", "normal", "high" and "very high", respectively. For females, 21 points or less, 22 to 30 points, 31 to 41 points, 42 to 50 points and 51 points or more were judged "very low", "low", "normal", "high" and "very high", respectively. On the other hand, in the trait anxiety test, for males, 23 points or less, 24 to 32 points, 33 to 43 points, 44 to 52 points and 53 points or more were judged "very low", "low", "normal", "high" and "very high", respectively, and for females, 23 points or less, 24 to 33 points, 34 to 44 points, 45 to 54 points and 54 points or more were judged "very low", "low",

"normal", "high" and "very high", respectively.

SDS consisted of 20 items related to the depressive state and each was rated at 1 to 4 points. Theoretically, 20~80 points are to be scored and the greater the score, the stronger the depression is assumed to be. SDS can also be evaluated by being divided into three groups based on total points. In the Japanese version, 35 (± 12) points, 49 (± 10) points and 60 (± 7) points are defined as the normal level, neurotic level and depressive level, respectively.

Theoretically, HRS indicates a range of 0 to 62 points and the greater the score, the stronger the depression is assumed to be.

Statistical analysis

In the statistical analysis for each criterion, the *t*-test was used for comparisons for average values. Correlation coefficients were used for indicating relationship between the two scores.

RESULTS

Frequencies of anxiety and depressive grades in MCS

Anxiety scores. The added proportions of "high" and "very high" in MCS and controls in the new patients were 76.6%, 70.0%, respectively. On the other hand, the proportion graded "high" or "very high" state anxiety in MCS tended to be larger than those in controls in the follow-up patients (MCS= 50.0%, controls = 27.8%) with no statistical significance (Fig.1).

The proportion of "high" or "very high" trait anxiety grades showed the same trends as state anxiety both in the new and follow-up patients (the new patients; MCS = 73.4%, controls = 60.0%, the follow-up patients; MCS = 60.0%, controls = 33.4%) (Fig.2).

Depression scores. The added proportions from "normal~ neurotic level" to "depressive level" in MCS and controls in the new patients were 70.0%, 69.2%, respectively. A comparison in the levels of SDS between MCS and controls in the new patients indicated that the added proportion of subjects classified as the "normal~ neurotic level" or advanced levels, MCS (70.0%) did not differ from those of controls (69.2%). On the other hand, MCS (77.8%) tended to be a larger proportion than the controls (33.4%) in the follow-up patients. The new MCS patients (60.0%) tended to have a higher ratios than controls (34.6%) only when the proportions of "neurotic level" or advanced ones were added (Fig.3).

Average scores in MCS and controls

Anxiety scores. Mean scores of both state and trait anxiety tests in the MCS subjects were significantly higher than those of the controls in cases of the follow-up patients ($p < 0.05$). By contrast, the mean state and trait anxiety scores showed no statistical difference between MCS and controls in the new patients (Table 2).

Depression scores. The mean scales of both SDS and HRS in the MCS subjects were significantly higher than those of controls in cases of the follow-up patients ($p < 0.01$). However, neither scale in MCS significantly differed from those of controls in the new patients (Table 2).

Average scores of anxiety and depression in the new and follow-up patients according to MCS or controls

Anxiety scores. In MCS, there was no difference in either state and trait anxiety scores between the new patients and the follow-up patients. In the controls, however, the mean scores of both state and trait anxiety inventories of the new patients were significantly higher than those of the follow-up patients (state anxiety inventory; $p < 0.01$, trait anxiety inventory; $p < 0.05$) (Table 3).

Depression scores. In MCS, neither depression score of the new patients differed from those of the follow-up patients. In the controls, the depression scores of the new patients were significantly higher than those of the follow-up control patients ($p < 0.01$) (Table 2).

The correlation coefficients between the two different scores

Anxiety scores. The two anxiety scores were highly correlated in MCS and controls at first and subsequent appearances ($p < 0.01$) except for that of the follow-up controls ($r = 0.64$) (Table 3).

Depression scores. The correlation coefficients between SDS and HRS in MCS and controls was significantly high except for that of the follow-up controls (Table 3).

Relation between anxiety and depression

The correlation coefficients between SDS and state or trait anxiety inventory of the new patients showed a trend of higher values than those of the follow-up patients. However, there were almost no differences in the correlation coefficients between MCS and controls of both the new patients and the follow-up patients (Table 3).

DISCUSSION

Anxiety of MCS

From the results of comparison of mean scores for anxiety between MCS and the control, MCS was

characterized by higher scores in both state and trait anxiety tests of the follow-up patients compared with the controls. However, the new patients of MCS did not show higher anxiety scores compared with the controls. The categorical classification of state anxiety showed that most frequent grades of anxiety in both MCS and controls were evaluated as "very high" in the new patients and as "normal" categories in the follow-up patients. The largest category of trait anxiety in MCS was "very high" in the new patients and that of controls was "high". Both MCS and the controls indicated that the most frequent trait category was "normal" in the follow-up cases. MCS had no significant difference in the scores of state and trait anxiety tests between first and subsequent visits, while the control indicated decreased scores of both in the follow-up cases. Therefore, the characteristic of anxiety in MCS is that at the first appearance, the anxiety level is high as controls and remained high at the subsequent visits. On the other hand, the anxiety level in the controls decreased at the subsequent appearance. The finding observed in this study that MCS remained at strong anxiety was similar to a previous study (Simom et al. 1990) when the combined prevalence of either anxiety or depression was very high (prevalence = 95%). This is probably because firstly intensified anxiety is associated with uncertainty about unknown causes and unestablished treatment of MCS and secondarily MCS patients have an inherent trend of anxiety. Spielberger (1970) described that state anxiety was related to subjective emotion of situation-dependent stress or concern and trait anxiety was related to personal character such as a tendency of being anxious or difference in reaction.

Since MCS is characterized by strong anxiety which remained at the follow-up, it is a matter of psychiatric concern whether MCS is identical to the anxiety disorder described in the DSM-IV (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th edition) of the U.S. Psychiatric Association and Anxiety Disorder listed on ICD-10 of WHO. Some previous studies described the resemblance of MCS to anxiety disorders because the symptoms appeared immediately after an exposure to a very low concentration of chemical substance and recurred under the same or similar conditions. Other articles mentioned the similarity with panic disorders. Kurt (1995) pointed out that MCS was particularly related to a panic or anxiety attack defined in DSM-IV and called MCS "toxic agoraphobia". Binkley et al. (1997) reported that administering sodium lactate to all five cases of MCS caused subjective MCS symptoms as opposed to the cases of placebo. Sodium lactate is known as a panic attack-inducing material (Pitts and McClure 1967; Fyer et al 1984; Cowley and Arana 1990). Based on this finding, they described that there is some bioneurological similarity between MCS and panic disorders. Besides, there are other indications that MCS symptoms may be related to hyperventilation syndrome (Lehrer 1997; Leznoff 1997) and that MCS is a subgroup of somatization disease (Gothe et al. 1995).

Because the present study discusses whether the anxiety of MCS is stronger or not, we could not conclude which of the above-mentioned disorders are similar to MCS in this study. However, as the anxiety of MCS is observed to be higher than controls in the follow-up patients, it seems necessary in the future to examine which anxiety disorder resembles the anxiety of MCS by structural interview. In addition, the mean scores of anxiety inventories in MCS were approximately five points higher than those of controls at first examination though the

difference was not significant. Therefore we have to investigate whether MCS has higher anxiety than controls when the numbers of MCS are increased.

Depressive state of MCS

Comparing the mean SDS or HRS scores between MCS and the controls, there were no statistical differences in the new patients, while the scores of MCS were higher than those of controls in the follow-up patients. In addition, there was no statistical difference in either scale between the new patients and the follow-up in MCS, whereas the new patients had significantly higher values than the follow-up controls. These findings showed the same trend as anxiety in this study. These suggest that MCS may be characterized by the continuance of depressive state at a "neurotic level" category by SDS. These findings are similar to a previous report that the patients with chemical sensitivity had high prevalence of current anxiety and depressive disorder (44 % versus 15 %), however, this difference did not appear to precede the onset of chemical sensitivity (Simon et al. 1993). From these findings, we think that the MCS is characterized by the continuance of some depressive state rather than an advanced degree of the depressive state. The prevalent rates of depression in MCS by use of structured psychiatric interviews (Fiedler et al.1992; Simon et al. 1993) and by an unstructured one (Stewart and Raskin, 1985) were reported to be ranged from 17% to 29%. It may be necessary to assess the depressive state in MCS using controls of psychiatric disorders (i.e. affective disorder, anxiety disorder and personality disorder). We also have to investigate how to change the depressive state in the course of MCS.

The correlation between SDS and HRS in MCS and controls at first and subsequent appearance was high except for that in the follow-up control group. The study on correlation, performed on the depression patients by Prusoff et al. (1972), between questionnaires of the depressive examination and objective evaluations reported that individual symptoms for each item showed a higher correlation during the remitting period after 10 months than the acute period immediately after hospitalization. Another study on the correlation between SDS and HRS, performed on in-patients by Davis et al. (1975) , also reported that correlation coefficients on the day, 7th, 14th and 21st days of hospitalization were 0.62, 0.76, 0.72 and 0.95, respectively, suggesting that as the number of days after hospitalization increased, the higher the correlation between SDS and HRS became. These previous findings are not consistent with those of the present MCS study. The characteristics of MCS had almost unchanged correlation coefficients between SDS and HRS in the course of this disease, which may differ from depression. Since MCS is a heterogeneous condition, we should find differences of depressive symptomatology between MCS and psychiatry disorders.

Relation between anxiety and depressive state in MCS, and controls

Because of negligible differences of correlation coefficients of anxiety with the depressive state between MCS

and controls in both the new patients and the follow-up patients, it is hard to say whether the two scales in MCS are closely correlated.

This study selected patients with ophthalmologic diseases as the controls for the following two reasons: firstly, the investigation on controls can be performed under the same condition as MCS; Secondly, all people seem to have higher anxiety and depressive states due to some disease regardless of its type. Comparison between patients of MCS and those of different diseases can reveal the psychological states due to MCS.

The control group suffered from various ophthalmologic diseases, but the majority of the affected parts were retinas and corpus vitreum. Especially, for the follow-up patients, the ratio of retinal and corpus vitreum disorders reached 52.9% and some bias may exist due to such a heterogenous composition of diseases.

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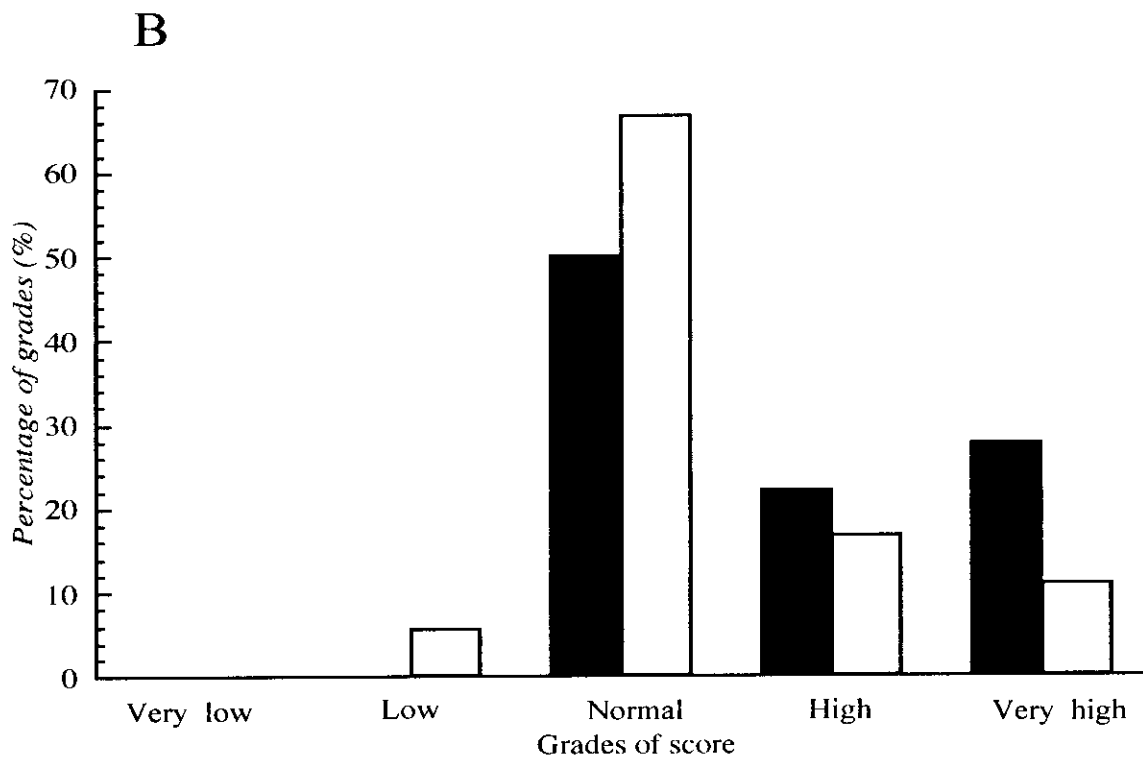
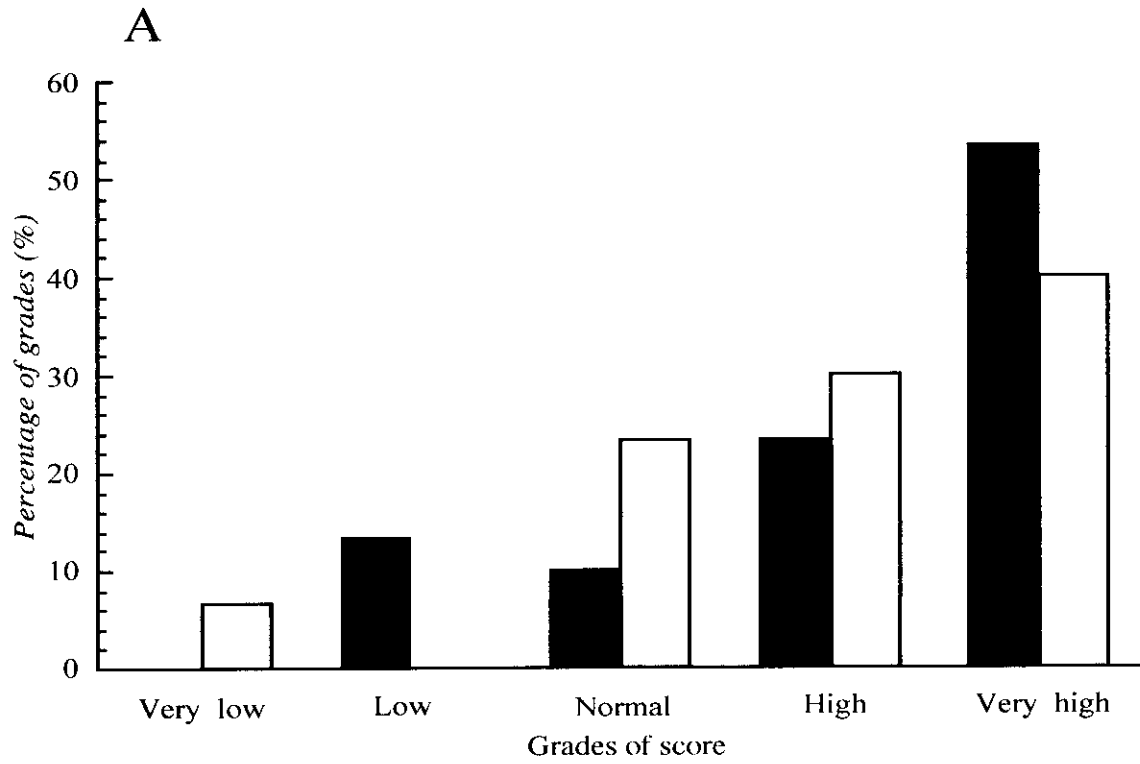


Fig.1. Frequency distribution of grades of state anxiety inventory in MCS and controls. Figure 1-A is the result of the new patients, and Figure 1-B is the result of the follow-up patients. □, Control; ■, MCS.

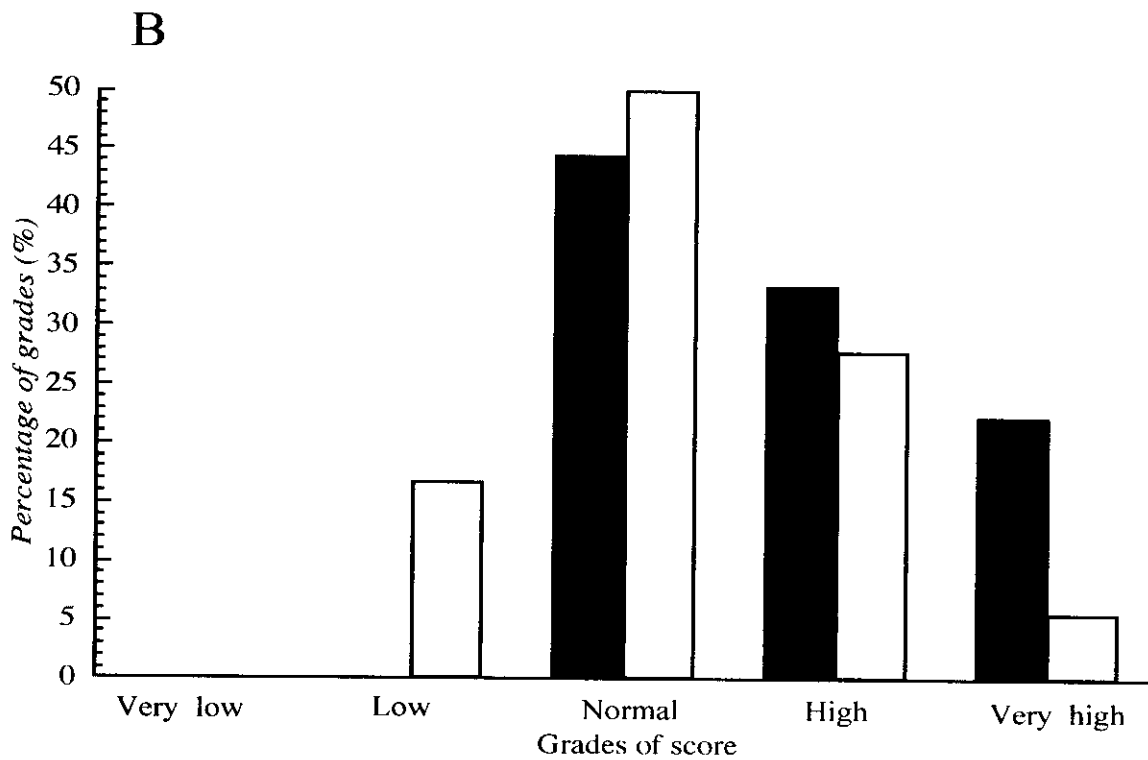
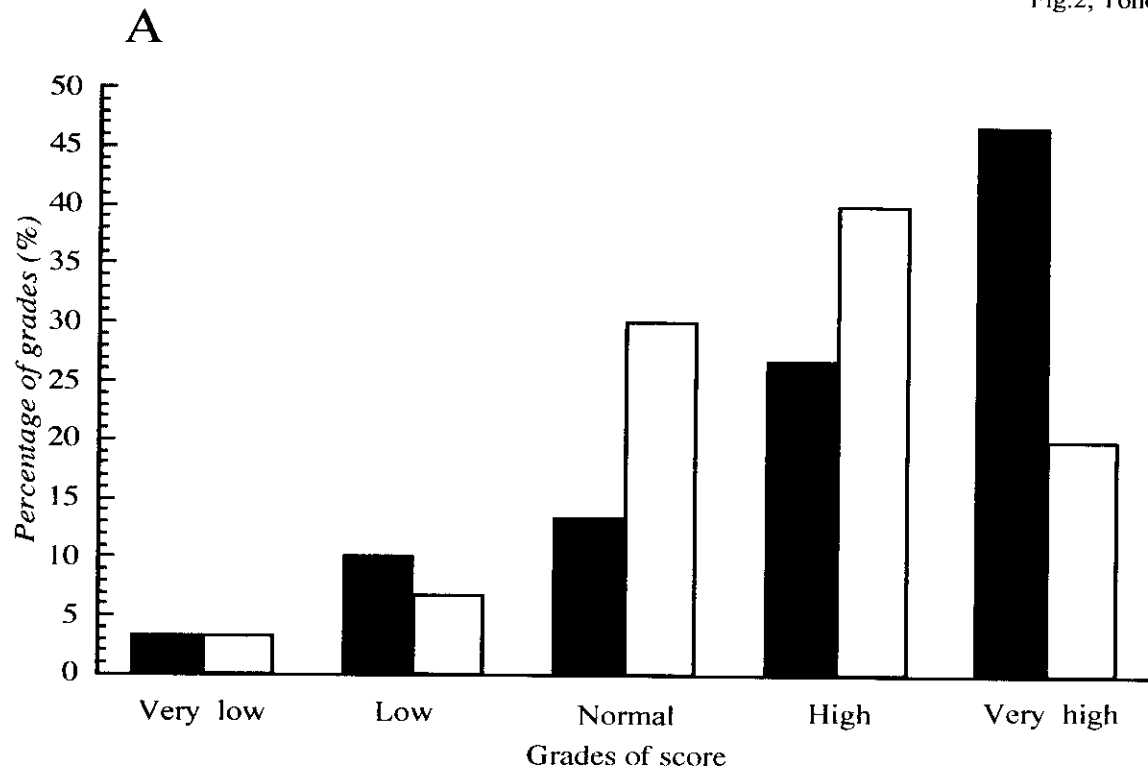


Fig.2. Frequency distribution of grades of trait anxiety inventory in MCS and controls. Figure 2-A is the result of the new patients, and Figure 2-B is the result of the follow-up patients. □, Control; ■, MCS.

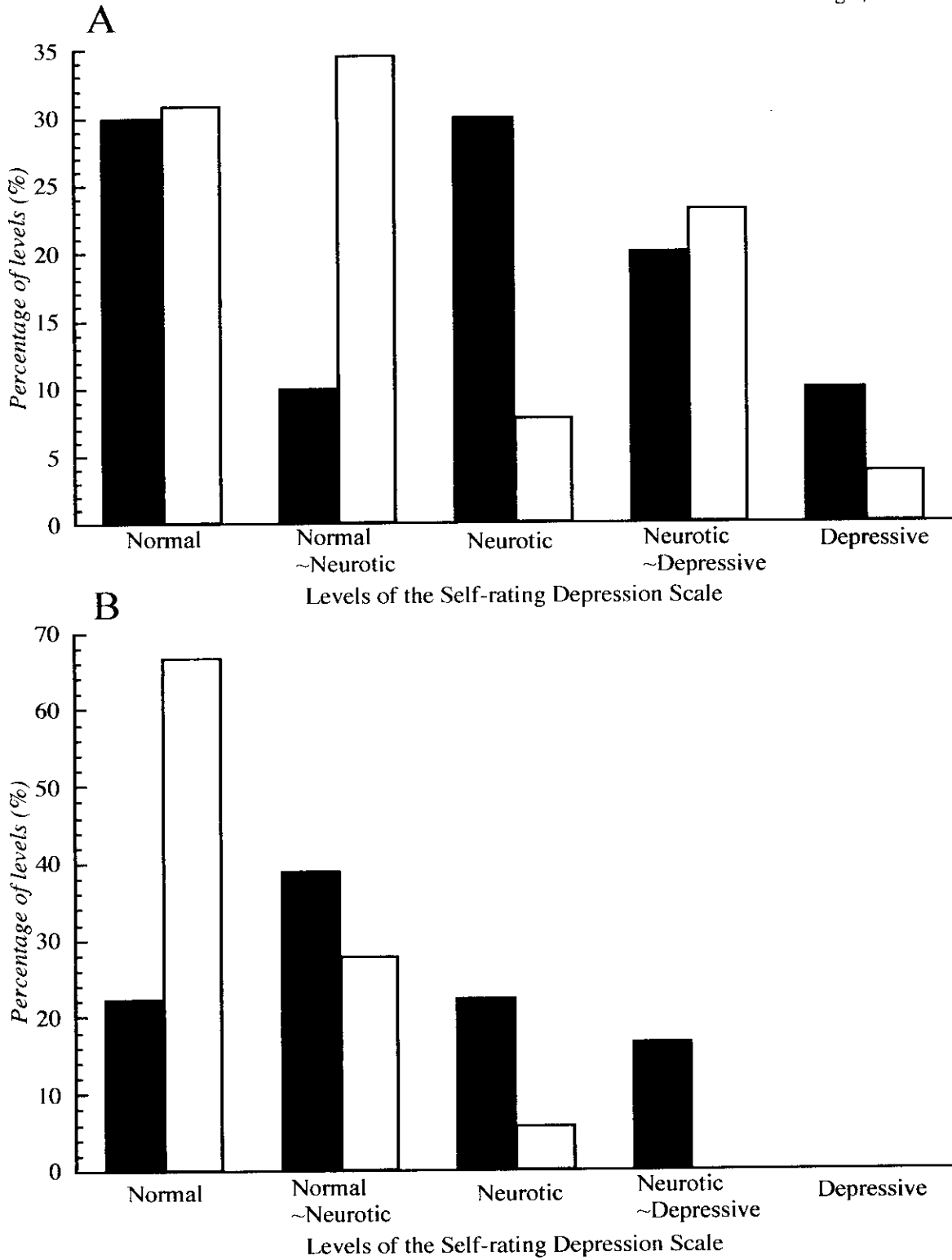


Fig.3. Frequency distribution of levels of the Self-rating Depression Scale in MCS and controls. Figure 3-A is the result of the new patients, and Figure 3-B is the result of the follow-up patients. □, Control; ■, MCS.

TABLE 1. Mean and range of age in MCS and the control according to gender

Subjects		MCS	Control
All	<i>n</i>	48 42.6 ± 15.4 (17-75)	48 42.5 ± 15.4 (16-73)
Men	<i>n</i>	16 38.2 ± 14.0 (17-72)	16 37.8 ± 13.5 (18-70)
Women	<i>n</i>	32 44.8 ± 15.8 (16-75)	32 44.8 ± 16.0 (16-73)
New patients	<i>n</i>	30 41.5 ± 15.0 (18-75)	30 41.2 ± 14.7 (16-73)
Men	<i>n</i>	12 38.8 ± 14.5 (21-72)	12 38.3 ± 13.9 (20-70)
Women	<i>n</i>	18 43.3 ± 15.4 (18-75)	18 43.1 ± 15.3 (16-73)
Follow-up patients	<i>n</i>	18 44.3 ± 16.4 (17-72)	18 44.6 ± 16.7 (16-72)
Men	<i>n</i>	4 36.3 ± 14.2 (17-48)	4 36.3 ± 14.2 (18-49)
Women	<i>n</i>	14 46.6 ± 16.8 (19-72)	14 47.0 ± 17.0 (16-72)

Shown by mean (years) ± S.D. (); range.

TABLE 2. The mean scores of questionnaires in MCS and controls

	State anxiety inventory	Trait anxiety inventory	Self-rating depression scale	Hamilton rating scale for depression
New patients				
MCS	50.9±13.6] ns	51.2±11.8] ns	47.4±11.3] ns	12.5±5.9] ns
Controls	45.7±10.8	46.2±10.9	43.3±10.0	8.5±4.3
Follow-up patients				
MCS	45.3±8.9] *	47.3±8.7] *	45.1±7.4] **	10.7±5.0] **
Controls	39.1±6.0 ^{††}	39.9±8.2 [†]	35.5±7.0 ^{††}	3.1±2.9 ^{††}

Shown by mean ± S.D., ns; Not significantly different, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$
[†] $p < 0.05$, ^{††} $p < 0.01$; compared with controls at the first visits.

TABLE 3. The correlation coefficients between two questionnaires in MCS and controls

New patients	state anxiety inventory and trait anxiety inventory	state anxiety inventory and self-rating depression scale	trait anxiety inventory and self-rating depression scale	self-rating depression scale and Hamilton rating scale for depression
MCS	0.87**	0.70**	0.82**	0.74**
Controls	0.75**	0.72**	0.81**	0.88**
Follow-up patients				
MCS	0.81**	0.58*	0.57*	0.71**
Controls	0.64**	0.55*	0.46	0.47

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$

《和文での概要》

【要約】

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) は精神症状を呈することが多いとされているが、本研究では、年齢と性別をマッチングさせた上で MCS と眼科疾患患者を比較することにより、MCS の不安と抑うつ (depressive state) の特徴について検討した。調査は他の疾患の可能性がなく、Cullen の診断基準を満たすものを MCS とし、他の疾患で眼科に初診となった、あるいは通院中の患者を Control とした。MCS 48 人、Control 48 人に対して、自記式の不安検査である State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI) 日本版、自記式の抑うつ検査である Self-rating Depression Scale (SDS) 日本版と、医師用抑うつ評価尺度である Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression (HRS) を用いて、不安と抑うつの評価を行った。

結果の解析は初診と再診 (通院中の対象) に分けて行ったが、MCS の再診では不安尺度・抑うつ尺度の得点が、control の再診に比べて有意な高値を示した。これに対して初診では、全ての尺度で MCS と control に有意な差は認められなかった。また、MCS の初診と再診の得点を比較した場合は有意差が認められないのに対し、control では再診患者群で全ての尺度得点が有意に低下していた。

このことから、MCS の不安と抑うつの特徴は、他の疾患と比較して高いということよりも、初診時に他の疾患でも持つような程度の不安や抑うつ (SDS では neurotic level 程度のもの) が再診時にも継続していることである可能性が示唆された。

【はじめに】

1986 年、Schottenfeld と Cullen¹⁾ により、職業的な化学物質曝露の後から、香水吸入程度の化学物質曝露でも体調の不良を訴え、医学的に説明のつかない症状を呈する症例が初めて報告され、翌 1987 年、エール大学職業医学診療所での類似した症例の観察から、Cullen²⁾ により Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) が提唱され、今日に至っている。Cullen が示した MCS の診断根拠は、1) 環境由来の化学物質により発症し、2) 二臓器以上に症状を認め、3) 原因と思われる物質に対する反応により再発したり減弱する、4) 症状は構造の異なる化学物質の曝露により起こる、5) 症状は低濃度だが、検出可能な曝露によって生じる、6) 症状を発現する曝露は極めて低いレベルである、7) 一般に行われている検査で症状を説明できるものがない、の 7 つである。

これまでの研究において様々な仮説や実験データ、臨床所見が示されているが、その病因や病態については、未だ統一した見解が得られていない。また、病因が身体的なものであるのか、心因的なものであるのか、あるいは、両者が複合して関与するものなのかの結論も得られていない。MCS 患者が訴える症状の中で、最も頻度の高いものに精神症状がある。Lax ら²⁾ の調査では、職業性に発症したと考えられる MCS 患者で、初診時・追跡調査時の両方で最も頻度の高かった症状として、活力の低下、集中困難、抑うつ感、記憶力の低下、易疲労性が挙げられている。

そこで我々は最も一般的な精神状態である不安と抑うつについて、他疾患患者と比較することにより、

MCS 患者の不安・抑うつが他疾患患者よりも強いのか否か、あるいは、不安・抑うつに何らかの特徴があるかどうかについて検討を加えた。

【対象と方法】

調査期間は、1998年7月1日から1999年5月11日まで、解析対象はMCS46人、Control 46人、合計92人とした。対象は、自らMCSを疑って来院するか他院からの紹介を受けて、北里大学病院眼科外来に来院し、他に明らかな疾患がなく、Cullenの診断根拠を充たすことでMCSと考えられた患者を「MCS」とし、これ以外の疾患に罹患し、同外来に初診あるいは再診した患者を「Control」とした。なお、MCSの可能性については評価者とは別な医師により診断された。MCSの初診とは、MCSの可能性があったケースの初診時調査結果を指し、再診とはMCSの可能性を指摘され、北里大学病院外来に通院中のケースの調査結果を指すものとした。ただし、初診と再診に同一対象が含まれないようにするため、初診時に調査したケースについては、再診時の調査対象から除外した。

Controlは、調査の目的と方法、データの使用方法について口答で説明し、調査に同意の得られた人を無作為に調査することにより集められた。Controlの疾患の内訳は、初診、再診ともに網膜・硝子体疾患が多い傾向にあった。

MCSとControlの全体の平均年齢とその標準偏差は、MCSが42.5(±15.4)歳、Controlが42.6(±15.4)歳であった(Table1.)。マッチングさせてControlとしたこともあり、当然のことながら、MCSとControl間で平均年齢に差はなく、それぞれの群内で比較した場合、男女間、初診と再診間の平均年齢に統計学的な有意差は認められなかった。

調査は上記の対象に対して、不安の評価はSpielberger⁴⁾により開発された自己記入式の不安尺度であるState-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI) 日本版を用いた。また、抑うつの評価は、Zung⁵⁾により開発された自己記入式のうつ状態尺度であるSelf-rating Depression Scale (SDS) 日本版と医師用のうつ病評価スケールであるHamilton Rating Scale for Depression (HRS)⁶⁾ 日本版を用いて行った。

STAIは、状態不安検査と特性不安検査から構成され、それぞれについて20問、計40問の質問で成り立っている。質問はそれぞれ1~4点で点数化され、得点が高くなるほど不安も強いと判断される。検査は、被験者が自ら質問を読み、質問紙に記入する自己記入式で行われる。状態不安検査、特性不安検査ともに日本版のマニュアルでは5段階の評価基準があり、状態不安では、男性の場合、22点以下が「非常に低い」、23点から31点が「低い」、32点から40点が「普通」、41点から49点が「高い」、50点以上が「非常に高い」と判定され、女性の場合、21点以下が「非常に低い」、22点から30点が「低い」、31点から41点が「普通」、42点から50点が「高い」、51点以上が「非常に高い」と判定される。一方、特性不安では、男性の場合、23点以下が「非常に低い」、24点から32点が「低い」、33点から43点が「普通」、44点から52点が「高い」、53点以上が「非常に高い」と判定され、女性の場合、23点以下が「非常に低い」、24点から33点が「低い」、34点から44点が「普通」、45点から54点が「高い」、54点以上が「非常に高い」と判定される。

SDS は抑うつに関する 20 項目から構成され、1~4 点で点数化する。理論上、20 点~80 点の点数を示すことになり、得点が高いほど、抑うつが強いことを表す。SDS は総得点により、3 群に分けて評価することもできる。日本版では、正常が 35 点 (±12)、神経症水準が 49 点 (±10)、うつ病水準が 60 点 (±7) とされている。本研究ではこの日本版の判定基準に従い、対象の得点について 38 点以下を「正常水準」、39 点から 47 点を「正常~神経症水準」、48 点から 52 点を「神経症水準」、53 点から 59 点を「神経症~うつ病水準」、60 点以上を「うつ病水準」とした。

HRS は、内因性うつ病、反応性うつ病を対象に作成されたもので、評価は経験のある臨床医によって行われる。理論上、0 点~62 点を示し、点数が高いほど抑うつが強いと判断される。

【統計解析】

統計学的解析は、各尺度の平均得点と平均年齢の MCS-Control 間の比較に T-test を用いた。不安尺度間の相関、抑うつ尺度間の相関をみるのに単相関を用い、得られた相関係数を比較した。なお、両統計学的解析には、SPSS 8.0J for Windows を用いた。

【結果】

1. MCS の不安と抑うつの尺度得点について

1) 不安尺度得点

状態不安検査得点分布を MCS と Control で比較すると、初診では「高い」と「非常に高い」の割合は、MCS は 76.6%、Control では 70.0%であった。一方、再診では統計学的な有意差はないものの、MCS で「高い」と「非常に高い」の割合が高い傾向がみられた (MCS が 50.0%、Control が 27.8%) (Fig.1)。

特性不安検査についても、「高い」と「非常に高い」の割合は、状態不安検査と同様の傾向が認められた (初診; MCS が 73.4%、Control が 60.0%、再診; MCS が 60.0%、Control が 33.4%) (Fig.2)。

2) 抑うつ尺度得点

SDS 得点分布を MCS と Control で比較すると、「正常~神経症水準」から「うつ病水準」までの割合は、初診で、MCS が 70.0%、Control が 69.2%であり、明らかな差はみられなかった。一方、再診では、「正常~神経症水準」から「うつ病水準」までの割合が、MCS で 77.8%、Control で 33.4 %と、MCS で高い割合を示す傾向が認められた。ほとんどの差が認められなかった初診の患者においても、「神経症」水準以上の割合を比べた場合、MCS が 60.0%、Control が 34.6%と、MCS で高い割合を示す傾向がみられた (Fig.3)。

2. MCS と Control の各尺度平均値の比較

1) 不安尺度得点

不安尺度の平均得点を比較した場合、再診では、状態不安検査・特性不安検査ともに MCS が有意な

高値を示した ($p<0.05$)。対照的に、初診では両尺度検査の平均得点に MCS と Control に統計学的な有意差は認められなかった (Table 2)。

2) 抑うつ尺度得点

SDS、HRS の平均得点を比較した場合、再診では両検査とも、MCS が有意な高値を示した。しかし、初診では両検査ともに、MCS と Control の平均得点に有意差は認められなかった。これは、上記の不安検査と全く同様の結果であった (Table 2)。

3. MCS と Control それぞれの初診と再診の比較

1) 不安尺度得点

MCS の初診と再診の間で不安尺度の平均得点を比較した場合、状態不安検査得点、特性不安検査得点ともに、初診と再診で統計学的な有意差は認められなかった。一方、Control を初診と再診で比較すると、両検査ともに、初診が再診に比べ有意に高い値を示した (状態不安検査; $p<0.01$ 、特性不安検査; $p<0.05$) (Table 2)。

2) 抑うつ尺度得点

MCS の初診と再診で、SDS、HRS の平均得点を比較すると、両検査とも初診と再診に統計学的な有意差は認められなかった。対照的に、Control を初診と再診で比較すると、両検査で初診が再診に比べ有意な高値を示した ($p<0.01$) (Table 2)。

4. 各尺度得点の相関

1) 不安尺度得点

状態不安検査と特性不安検査の得点は、Control の再診を除いて、高い相関係数を示す ($p<0.01$) (Table 3)。

2) 抑うつ尺度得点

SDS と HRS の得点は、Control の再診を除いて、高い相関係数を示した (Table 3)。

3) 不安尺度得点と抑うつ尺度得点

SDS と状態不安検査得点、あるいは SDS と特性不安得点の相関係数は、MCS・Control とともに、初診で、再診に比較して高い傾向がみられた。しかし、その他では、初診・再診ともに、MCS と Control に明らかな違いはみられなかった (Table 3)。

【考察】

1. MCS の不安について

状態不安得点と特性不安得点についての MCS と Control の比較結果から、再診では Control に比較して明らかに高い不安があり、初診では Control と変わらないことが認められた。また、MCS の初診と再診を比較した場合、状態不安得点・特性不安得点ともに有意な差が認められなかった。一方、Control では再診で両検査得点が有意に低くなっている。これらのことから、MCS の不安の特徴は、不安そのものが高いというより、他の身体疾患患者が病初期（初診時）に持つ程度の不安が通院中も継続することにあることが示唆された。この要因としては、1) MCS が原因不明で、治療法が未だ確立されないことなどの不確実性に伴う不安の増強、2) 元来、MCS 患者が不安を持ちやすい傾向を有する、などが考えられる。Spielberger (1966) が定義しているように、状態不安が状況に依存した緊張や懸念などの主観的な感情に関連する不安であり、特性不安が不安を持つ傾向や反応の差など個人差に関連する不安であると仮定すると、1) の要因を比較的良好に反映するのは状態不安検査であり、2) の要因を比較的良好に反映するのは特性不安検査と言える。したがって、本研究では、状態不安得点、特性不安得点ともに MCS で有意に高値であったことから、MCS の不安形成には、1) と 2) の両方の要因が関与しているものと推測される。

上記のごとく、MCS の特徴として不安の強さが認められることから、精神医学的には米国精神医学会の DSM-IV(Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th edition)あるいは WHO の ICD-10 にある Anxiety disorder との異同が問題となる。これまでの報告をみると、微量化学物質への曝露直後に発作様の症状が出現し、同様な環境下では繰り返し症状が発現する病状があることから、パニック障害との関連に言及する論文がいくつかみられる。Kurt⁷⁾ は、MCS が特に DSM-IV のパニック発作や不安発作に関連性がみられることを指摘し、MCS を「毒性広場恐怖 (toxic agoraphobia) とも呼んでいる。また、Binkley⁸⁾ らは、対象 5 人の MCS 患者全員に乳酸ナトリウムを投与することにより、プラセボの場合と対照的に自覚的な MCS の症状が惹起されたことを報告している。乳酸ナトリウムはパニック発作誘発物質として知られており^{9) 11)}、このことから、MCS とパニック障害には生物・神経学的な類似性があるのではないかと述べられている。その他、発作様の症状発現が過換気症候群と関連があるのではないかという見解 (Leznoff¹²⁾ ,Lehrer¹³⁾ や、MCS を身体化障害のサブグループとする見方もある¹⁴⁾。本研究は MCS の不安が強いか否かを検討したものであるため、上記のいずれの見方に本研究結果が類似するものなのかについて言及することはできない。しかし、不安が高い状態にあることが認められた以上、今後、構造化面接等により、どの Anxiety disorder に近いのかを検討する必要があると思われる。

2. MCS の抑うつについて

MCS と Control で SDS 得点あるいは HRS 得点を比較した場合、初診では MCS と Control に有意差は認められなかった。一方、再診では、両検査得点ともに MCS で有意な高値が認められた。この結果は、先に示した不安検査の結果と同様である。したがって、MCS の抑うつについても、SDS の判定水準で言えば「神経症水準」程度の抑うつが継続することが特徴である可能性が示唆され、必ずしも抑うつが高いことのみが特徴でないとも考えられた。このことは、1993 年に Simon らが化学物質過敏症の不安

障害と抑うつ状態の罹患率がそれぞれ 44%と 15%と高率であった一方、化学物質過敏症発症前で比較すると、Control と変わりがないとする報告結果に一致している。

SDS と HRS の相関については、再診の Control 以外、高い相関係数を示した。Prusoff ら¹⁶⁾が行った抑うつ症状を示す患者についての自記式調査票による調査と客観的評価との相関の研究では、項目ごとの個別症状は入院直後の急性期よりも 10 カ月後の比較的寛解した状態の方が相関が高くなることを報告している。また、Davis ら¹⁷⁾が入院患者を対象に SDS と HRS の相関を調べた研究でも、入院 0 日の相関係数が 0.62、入院 7 日が 0.76、入院 14 日が 0.72、入院 21 日が 0.95 と、入院日数が長くなるほど SDS と HRS の相関は高くなることが報告されている。これらの先行研究の結果と本研究の MCS について結果は一致しない。したがって、主観的抑うつ感と客観的評価が経過中も初診時と同じような傾向が続くことも、MCS の抑うつの特徴の一つではないかと思われた。

このように、現状では、MCS は疾患として不均一な構成であると考えられ、今後は精神疾患による抑うつと MCS の抑うつが症候学的にどのような違いがあるかを検討する必要があると思われた。

3. MCS における不安と抑うつ相関について

MCS と Control で、不安尺度と抑うつ尺度の相関係数に違いがないことから、MCS が不安と抑うつのどちらかをより持ちやすいということはないと考えられた。従って、MCS の不安と抑うつは、どちらがより持ちやすいということはなく、この点で他の疾患とほとんど変わらず、不安・抑うつの程度がより高いということのみが特徴と考えられた。

4. Control について

本研究では Control を眼科疾患患者に設定した。その理由は、1) 外来での調査が MCS と同一条件で行える。2) 疾患の種類に関わりなく何らかの病気を有することにより、どんな人でも不安や抑うつは高まると考えられる。このため、他の疾患を有する人と比較することにより、「病気にかかっているための不安」の要因を排除でき、MCS に特有の状態を抽出できると考えられた、の二点からである。

本研究は、眼科疾患患者を Control として設定した結果であり、したがって、本研究結果が全ての身体疾患との比較を代表するものではない。また、Control も無作為に調査を行った結果、元来の疾患の比率に反映してか、初診・再診ともに網膜・硝子体疾患が多い構成になった。特に、再診では 52.9%が網膜・硝子体疾患患者であり、疾患構成の不均一さからのバイアスが存在する可能性がある。本研究結果は、これらの制限がある上での結果や考察であることに注意が必要である。