

考 察

上記5症例はいずれも、生来健康であったにもかかわらず「アマメシバ」摂取後呼吸器疾患が出現しました他に原因が見当たらず、ステロイド治療に反応しないことより「アマメシバ」摂取に関与した肺疾患と考えられた。

「アマメシバ」はトウダイグサ科の多年生通年性の低木で、マレーシアが原産である。葉は栄養価（カロチン、ビタミンB1/B2/C、カルシウム、リン、鉄など）が高い。アルカロイドのパパベリンを含有するとの報告⁴⁾もあるが、本邦で肺疾患との関連性が疑われた「アマメシバ」の分析結果ではパパベリンは含まれていないことが確認された（厚生労働省報告 un-published data）。台湾では1989年ごろより栽培され始めたが1995年ごろより営利的に栽培されるようになり特に若い女性を中心に体重コントロールの目的で服用されるようになった⁵⁾。

台湾での報告によると「アマメシバ」に関連した呼吸器疾患のうち、多くは本報告の症例1と同じ閉塞性細気管支炎である。閉塞性細気管支炎は慢性閉塞性肺疾患の範疇に属する稀な疾患であり、細気管支に限局した狭窄及び閉塞を特徴とする。その原因として膠原病、感染症、薬物などがあるが⁶⁾いまだに詳細な病態は解明されていない。「アマメシバ」関連の閉塞性細気管支炎の病態は不明であるがその組織所見では細気管支内腔粘膜内、粘膜下へのリンパ球浸潤及びマクロファージと線維芽細胞を主体とした線維化を伴う気管支内腔の狭窄が認められ、「アマメシバ」摂取に伴う何らかの肺での免疫異常の存在が示唆されている^{7,8)}。臨床的には、いずれの症例もステロイドや気管支拡張薬などの治療効果はなく重症化するものも少なくなく、台湾では肺移植なども試みられている。

「アマメシバ」は本邦では1996年に沖縄で栽培されるようになり現在年間約3000トンが生産され複数の業者が製造・販売を行っており日本国内でも相当数の使用者がいると考えられる。しかし、上記のように「アマメシバ」は重篤な肺障害を起こす可能性が極めて高いにもかかわらず、本邦における「アマメシバ」の実態調査研究がない。今後は全国の呼吸器関連施設に対して、これまでに「アマメシバ」の摂取と関連あると考えられた肺疾患症例の症例調査研究をアンケート

方式により実施し、全国調査により日本の現状とその臨床的特長を明らかにする中で、早期診断と発病予防に向けた情報発信を行うことが急務である。

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