

Current status of long-term follow-up for childhood cancer survivors

—Approach to childhood cancer survivors left off consultation—

Naoko MAEDA¹⁾, Koji KATO²⁾, Seiji KOJIMA³⁾, Keizo HORIBE^{1,4)}

1) Department of Pediatrics, National Hospital Organization Nagoya Medical Center

2) Division of Pediatric Hematology Oncology, Japanese Red Cross Nagoya First Hospital

3) Department of Pediatrics, Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine

4) Clinical Research Center, National Hospital Organization Nagoya Medical Center

The purpose of this study was to evaluate the current health status and the rate of truth telling among childhood cancer survivors left off consultation. The subjects of this study were 294 guardians whose children were 5-year survivors of childhood cancer and had left off consultation for more than two years. Those children were diagnosed and treated in three hospitals in Nagoya between 1975 and 2001. We designed the survey using a questionnaire, which consisted of two phases. At the end of the second phase, 118 guardians replied. Twenty-six of the guardians have not told their children about the disease. One-hundred and eight guardians answered that their children are healthy and have no trouble in their daily lives. However, thirty-two of the guardians responded that their children are affected by some late effects and some of them are in serious condition.

Therefore it is necessary for us to educate survivors and medical staff about the importance of long-term follow-up and to establish the long-term follow-up care system.

Key Words: Childhood Cancer Survivors, Late Effects, Truth Telling, Long-Term Follow-Up.

