Development and Application of Psychiatric Emergency Education Program for Emergency Providers

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Background: In advanced countries, ED visit due to psychiatric emergency has been increasing. South Korea showed the highest incidence of suicidal attempt among OECD countries. To conduct high quality emergency care for mental health problem, educating emergency providers is important. In this investigation we developed and operated education program for psychiatric emergency and conducted survey for the trainees.

Methods: We developed education modules and materials about psychiatric emergency customized for emergency physician, emergency nurse and prehospital EMS provider respectively. We selected core topics based on literature review and expert consensus. Education program was composed of lecture, visual material, group discussion and so on. After development, we operated education courses for each type of emergency providers. And we also conducted survey to the attendants about previous experience of education and satisfaction of education course by 5 point likert scale.

Results: We developed 3 types of psychiatric emergency education programs customized for each occupation specialty. For physicians, education program was 2 days courses with basic and advanced course. Basic course was composed of lectures about psychiatric emergency care system, medicolegal problem, initial stabilization, interview skill, stress management of providers and so on. Advanced course is focused on case review and group discussion. Education course for nurse is 3 hour program about nursing mental health problem. Education for 119 EMT is 2 hour course focused on prehospital protocol and medical direction.

73 emergency physicians (22 professors, 4 EM boards, 47 EM residents), 34 nurses, 25 EMS providers participated in each education course. According to the survey for emergency physician, experience receiving education for psychiatric emergency was only 40% during residency and 10% after EM board. All of responders replied that psychiatric emergency program is required (very required: 72.2%, required: 27.8%). Emergency nurses and EMTs also showed low percentage of previous education experiences and requirement of education program was 97.1% and 95.8%, respectively.

Conclusion: We developed psychiatric emergency education program customized for each type of emergency providers. Participants showed low percentage of previous education experience and wanted to learn psychiatric emergency program.

Key Words: Psychiatric Emergency Services, Education