末期癌に対する漢方の応用 〜呉茱萸湯で頭痛が改善した1症例〜

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要旨:癌に伴う頭痛は難治性のことが多く、鎮痛治療や予後判定を含めた診断のために神経内科医が介入する場合がある。今回、胃癌全摘術後の補助化学療法追加にもかかわらず生じた他臓器への転移に伴い、塩酸モルヒネ抵抗性の頭痛を生じた男性症例で癌性髄膜炎の診断がつき、漢方の呉茱萸湯を用いてごく短期間で頭痛が改善した。しかし、頭痛寛解期間は3日半であり、結果的に不幸な転帰を辿った。呉茱萸湯の構成生薬の一つ一つが鎮痛・鎮静効果、抗炎症効果や末梢微小循環改善効果などをもたらした可能性と、漢方がトータル的に塩酸モルヒネの効果増強や副作用減弱に寄与した可能性が考えられる。治療経過を東洋心身医学的にまとめるならば、呉茱萸湯による塩酸モルヒネ抵抗性疼痛の改善が可能になり、夫婦で最期に穏やかな対話の時間がとれたことの意義は大きい。

索引用語:神経内科,末期癌,髓膜炎,頭痛,呉茱萸湯

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Application of Kampo Therapy for Terminal Cancer ~ Treatment of a Patient Having Headache with Goshuyu-to ~ Ou Oikawa *1.3, Kunio Tashiro *2

Abstract: Headache accompanying carcinomatous meningitis can be treatmentresistant at times, and neurologists enter the scene in order to diagnose the headachetype and to actually relieve the pain. Here, we report on a male patient with terminal gastric cancer having metastases in multiple organs. He presented with morphineresistant headache, and was cytologically diagnosed as having carcinomatous meningitis. We treated the patient with the Kampo Goshuyu-to (or Wu-Zhu-Yu-Tang) and his headache vanished soon after enhancement of treatment. Unfortunately, the remission period was three days and a half, after which the patient had a fatal outcome. The raw plant-extract ingredients of Goshuvu-to may have brought about an analgesic/anesthetic/anti-inflammatory effect or improvement in vascular microcirculation. Another speculation would be that the Kampo as a whole may have somehow produced an increase in the effect and a decrease in the side-effect of the morphine. To psychosocially summarize the Kampo treatment, the effect that Goshuyu-to had on the improvement of morphine-resistant pain and the valuable time the patient and wife shared in communicating with each other, should easily justify the active use of the Kampo.

Key words: neurology, terminal stage (end-stage) cancer, meningitis, headache, Goshuyu-to (Wu-Zhu-Yu-Tang)

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