高齢者の腰下肢痛 ──診断のポイントとプライマリ・ケア──

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要旨:65歳以上の高齢者で最も頻度の高い自覚症状は腰痛である.腰痛の診断を行う際に最も注意すべきことは、その痛みが重篤な疾患(癌転移など)による痛みか否かを鑑別することで、問診では、安静時痛の有無と進行性の痛みかどうかを必ず確認する.腰痛の中で頻度の高い非特異的腰痛は予後が良く、活動性を保つような生活指導と薬物療法による鎮痛で対応する.骨粗鬆症性椎体圧迫骨折は頻度が高いが、見逃されている場合も多い.高齢女性の腰痛をみた場合には常に本症を疑う必要がある.高齢者の下肢痛・しびれを生じる代表的な疾患は腰部脊柱管狭窄症である.本症の重要な病態は、狭窄の程度は姿勢により変化し、それと同時に症状も変化することである.狭窄部で圧迫された馬尾・神経根の変化(血流障害など)が症状の出現に関与しており、漢方薬を含めた薬物治療の発展が期待される.

索引用語:腰痛、高齢者、骨粗鬆症性椎体圧迫骨折、腰部脊柱管狭窄症

PAIN AND KAMPO MEDICINE Vol. 18 (2008)

Low back and lower limb pain in elderly patients
—essential diagnosis and primary care—

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Abstract: Most common complaint in elderly people over 65 years old is low back pain. Careful checkup is essential in the evaluation of patients with low back pain. Serious systemic diseases such as cancer metastasis should be differenciated. Rest pain and progressive pain are important clinical sign of tumor or infection. On the other hand, Non-specific low back pain has a good prognosis, and to keep ordinary activity gives equivalent symptomatic recovery. Osteoporotic vertebral compression fracture also can be seen in elderly women, but this fracture is often overlooked. Lumbar spinal stenosis is a most common disease causing lower limb pain in elderly patients. Dynamic factors are important in the pathogenesis of the clinical presentation of lower limb pain in spinal stenosis. Ischemia of cauda equina should be a major pathology of neurogenic claudication. Medical treatments including kampo medicine for cauda equina pathology can be anticipated.

Key words: low back pain, elderly patients, osteoporotic vertebral compression fracture, lumbar spinal stenosis

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