

Report

## Hospitalization periods of patients in an acute stage treatment ward

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### Abstract

We examined hospitalization records for the acute stage treatment ward of Shin-abuyama Hospital and compared the findings those for hospitals. The records of 301 patients hospitalized in the acute stage treatment ward of Shin-abuyama Hospital were analyzed and compared with those of 58 acute stage treatment wards in Japan (Asai, 2001). The average number of hospitalization days at Shin-abuyama Hospital was 51.9 days and shorter than the 53.5 day average on hospitals. The ratio of psychotic patients (schizophrenia, manic depressive disorder) of Shin-abuyama Hospital was 61.5%, which was less than the 66.4% average for other hospitals. The hospitalization period of alcoholic patients at Shin-abuyama Hospital averaged 19.3 days, which was greater than the 16.3 days for other hospitals. To optimally minimize the hospitalization period for the acute stage treatment ward, alcoholic dependency cases should be treated in wards dedicated to that purpose.

**Key words :** alcoholism, hospitalization period, acute stage treatment ward

### Introduction

A psychiatric treatment ward for acute stage patients was opened in Shin-abuyama Hospital (acute stage ward) in January 1999. The hospital as a whole has 290 beds, with 50 beds in the acute stage ward, 68 beds in the psychiatric closed door ward, 52 beds in the psychiatric open door ward, 60 beds in the senile dementia medical treatment ward, and 60 beds in the alcohol dependency medical treatment ward.

The institutional standards for the acute stage ward are as follows. The number of patient per nurses and practical nurse is 2.5 : 1 (20 nurses) and patients per nursing helper is 10 : 1 (5 helpers). The duration of hospitalization of a newly admitted patient must be over 40 percent of the total duration of hospitalization of inpatients, and 40 percent or more patients should be discharged to their home or a halfway house for the

psychiatric handicapped patients within 3 months.

Thus, the acute stage ward must have enough nurses and strive for early discharge within 3 months.

In the present study, we investigated the outcome of treatment and the present status of the acute stage ward at Shin-abuyama Hospital and compared the findings with those of other hospitals.

### Subjects and Methods

A total of 733 patients (423 males and 310 female) were admitted to the acute stage ward of Shin-abuyama hospital over the 3-year period from January 1999 to the end of December 2001. The outcome of treatment and the present status of medical treatment were investigated. For comparison with other hospitals, we referred to the findings of the collaborative study on psychiatric acute stage medical treatment wards reported by Asai et al. in 2001.

**Results**

**Duration of hospitalization**

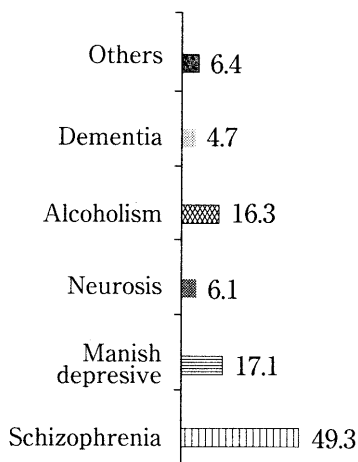
The average duration of hospitalization in the acute stage ward of Shin-abuyama Hospital was 65.6 days, or a little shorter than the 67.5 days of other hospitals.

The number of patients discharged within 90 days was 558 (76.1%), which was higher than that of other hospitals (62.0%). The number of discharged within 120 days was 654 (89.2%). Patients transferred from the acute stage ward to other wards came to 205 of the 733 patients.

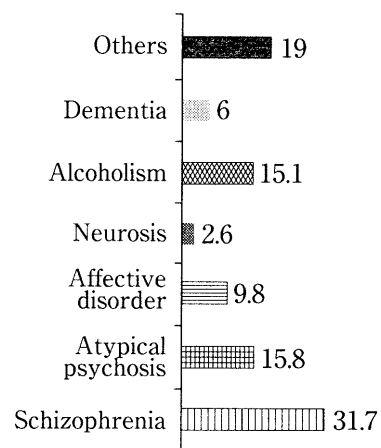
The average duration of hospitalization of 528 patients who were hospitalized only in the acute stage ward was 52.0 days. Patients requiring long-term hospitalization were among those transferred. The average duration of hospitalization of alcohol dependency patients in the acute stage ward was 52.1 days.

**Classification of inpatients**

The inpatients were classified as follows: 232 schizophrenia (31.7%), 116 atypical psychosis (15.8%), 72 manic-depressive psychosis (9.8%), 19 neurosis (2.6%), 111 alcoholism (15.1%), 44 dementia and organic psychotic disorder (6.0%), and 139 other



Acute stage ward of other hospital (modified Asai 2001)



Acute stage ward of Shin-Abuyama Hospital

Figure 1 The classification of inpatients

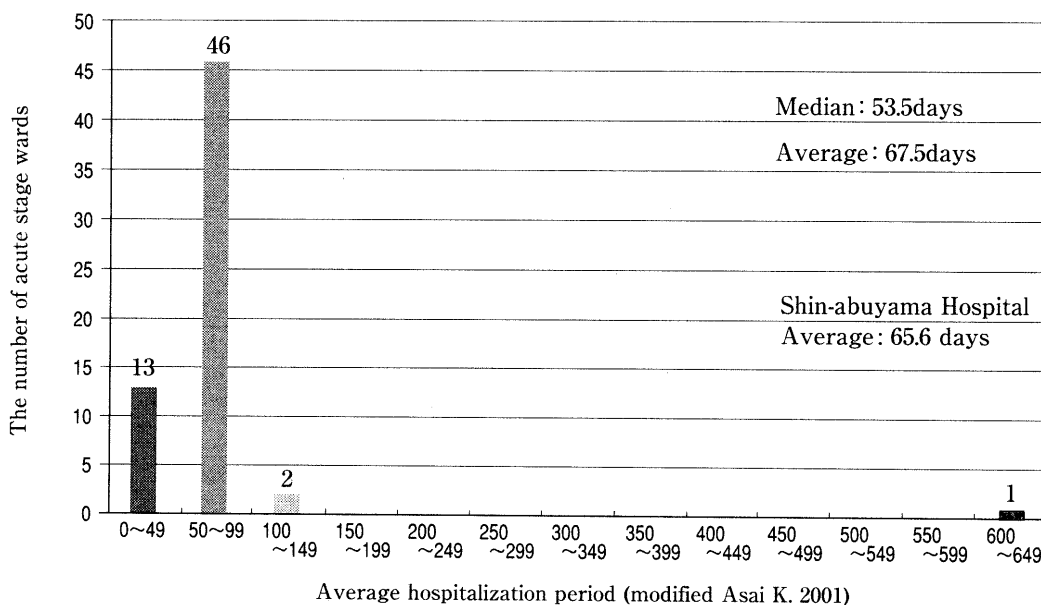


Figure 2 Average hospitalization period (discharged patients)

conditions (19.0%). The ratio of schizophrenia in the acute stage ward was 31.7% and lower than the 50% of other hospitals.

### Discussion

Shin-abuyama Hospital has 60 beds in the alcohol dependency medical treatment ward. Many alcohol dependency patients request hospitalization in the alcohol treatment ward, numbering about 300 per year. However, alcohol dependency patients with delirium or Korsakov's syndrome have to be admitted to the acute stage treatment ward. The average duration of hospitalization of alcohol dependency patients in the acute stage ward was 52.1 days, and that of all patients

was 52.0 days. Thus, hospitalization of alcohol dependency patients in the acute stage ward does not contribute to shortening of the duration of hospitalization in this acute stage ward. Such patients should be admitted to wards dedicated to treating alcohol dependency.

### References

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