

インタビュー

精神疾患に対する外科治療の 社会的受容性を検討する質的研究

— Mark Bernstein 教授インタビュー —*

Mark Bernstein

Division of Neurosurgery, Department of Surgery, University of Toronto

インタビュー・訳 栗原千絵子

独立行政法人放射線医学総合研究所分子イメージング研究センター
(2013年5月28日) 於：ザ・ペニンシュラ東京, 東京, 日本)

Qualitative research to determine social acceptability of neurosurgery for psychiatric disorders

— Interview with Professor Mark Bernstein —

Interview and translation :
Chieko Kurihara

Molecular Imaging Center, National Institute of Radiological Sciences
(May 28, 2013, The Peninsula Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan)

Abstract

This article is the record of an interview with Professor Mark Bernstein, a bioethicist-neurosurgeon from the University of Toronto, after he delivered a lecture during the International Satellite Symposium on neurosurgery for psychiatric disorders, held at the Tokyo International Exchange Center on May 27, 2013, endorsed by the World Society for Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery (WSSFN).

In his lecture and in this interview, Professor Bernstein introduced a number of qualitative research that he conducted on patients and surgeons to determine the acceptability of surgical interventions to treat psychiatric disorders. He believes that this kind of survey is necessary in order to develop a consensus on how to deal with ethically questionable medical procedures, especially psychosurgery.

He also expressed objections to the use of placebo in clinical studies. He equates placebo use to “deception” even if the patient was informed and has given permission to such use. In the Research Ethics Boards (REBs) that he attends in his university, he requests for scrutiny on placebo-controlled trials even if these trials are conducted by excellent researcher-surgeons. On the other hand, he acknowledged that the trend is now changing as more and more REBs are now accepting/approving placebo-controlled trials.

With regard to involuntarily commitment/treatment of persons suffering from psychiatric disorders, Professor Bernstein explained that the “Health Care Consent Act” of Ontario provide rules with respect to consent to treatment, participation in clinical research, and admission to a care facility of persons lacking the capacity to make decisions, including children, persons with psychiatric disorders, or adults who do not have mental capacity to make decisions. He explained that these rules define the hierarchy of supportive family members or public guardian who can make decisions on behalf of such persons.

We believe that a profound discussion of these perspectives, which have not been extensively discussed in Japan, may spur some meaningful evaluation, especially on the issue of ethical acceptability of experimental surgical intervention for psychiatric disorders.

Key words

psychosurgery, deep brain stimulation (DBS), qualitative research, psychiatric disorder, neuro-ethics

Rinsho Hyoka (Clinical Evaluation) 2013 ; 41 : 387-94.

* 本インタビュー記事は、本誌ホームページで英語版を公表する (http://homepage3.nifty.com/cont/41_2/p387-94eng.pdf).