

〈原 著〉

化粧品被害妄想を呈した2症例

稲本伸子*・中山秀夫*
矢吹 篤**

Two Cases of Delusion on Cosmetic Disturbances.

Nobuko INAMOTO*, Hideo NAKAYAMA*
Atsushi YABUKI**

Two cases suffering from delusion on having cosmetic disturbances were studied. The first case was a 43-year-old unmarried female who was high school teacher of Japanese. She had the delusion of suffering from pigmented cosmetic dermatitis after she had used cosmetics produced by the company M, and visited our hospital after she had visited a number of other dermatologists. Skin manifestations on her face were normal except that paranasal erythema and mild ephelides were noted. She was so excited and delirious whenever she came to our outpatient clinic that ordinary functions of the latter were much disturbed. Delusion was severe and the doctors had never been able to persuade her that she was not suffering from cosmetic dermatitis. The diagnosis made by the chief psychiatrist was "delirious reaction of hysterical character".

The second case was a 36-year-old unmarried female, and she had been working in a bar as a hostess. She felt she had pigmentation after she had used cosmetics produced by the company A, and was introduced to our hospital. On examination, there was no abnormality of the skin on the face at all except that slight teleangiectasia was noted. However, she insisted that paraffins absorbed from the cosmetics used were now being secreted in her skin, and that there was something in her hair. She was diagnosed as "paranoische Entwicklung" by the chief psychiatrist.

Recently cosmetic disturbances have manifested themselves as a social problem in Japan, and such a tendency can be diagnosed as a causating factor in producing such patients, who can be diagnosed as delusion on cosmetic disturbances. The characteristics of this new psychiatric disease are that the patients are manic for accusing and punishing others, so that they easily elevate their claims to medical claims. Such psychopathic persons have a certain legal right and therefore cannot be hospitalized by law even when they make much trouble in society. The patients, however, are really suffering from delusion, and pharmaceutical therapy seems to be indispensable, though the recognition of the psychic disease is entirely lacking on the side of patients. When a dermatologist encounters such a patient, he should pretend to be understanding and agree with the patient at first, and then make contact with the family of the patient to consult a psychiatrist to control her psychic disturbance.