

---

## ABSTRACT

Narratives of students with suspected schizophrenia spectrum disorders and assessment of early signs: Through listening to clients' words

MATSUSE, Rumiko

*Faculty of Health Promotional Sciences, Tokoha University*

In the present study seven cases from university students who were thought to have schizophrenia spectrum disorders are presented. The meaning of listening to clients' words and assessing early signs of the symptoms in the first session are discussed. Early detection of schizophrenia spectrum disorders followed by referrals to psychiatric treatment is crucial for students' university life and their social and occupational functioning after graduation. There is often a gap between clients' chief complaints and the presenting early signs of schizophrenia. Therefore, it is necessary to conduct a careful assessment based on knowledge of mental disorders. The present study examines the methods for obtaining correct information in the first interview and facilitating clients' narratives by introducing the perspective of clinical image experience. Moreover, the present study identifies counselors' attitudes in the following cases: a client who had no insight into the illness, a client who mainly complained about issues in interpersonal relationships, a client whose complaint was about health problems, and a client who reported to have been troubled without knowing the causes.

**Key Words:** schizophrenia spectrum disorders, early signs, student counseling

---