ABSTRACT

Integrating life review in the interview process for clients with late-onset schizophrenia

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This study reported an interview with a client suffering from late-onset schizophrenia, which generally appears after age 60. The background of the client's onset was considered influenced by social isolation, which is an issue in old age, and the introduction of a life review perhaps helped alleviate the client's symptoms. The client was interviewed to confirm their current state. The therapist began the interview by intently listening to the client, who was initially reluctant to talk about the past and only described their current situation with the words "I am sick." With a spontaneous reminiscence of birth, the introduction of a life review in the middle of the interview resulted in the theme of "loneliness" appearing in the recollections, which the client gradually accepted. In this paper, we examined the significance of psychotherapy for patients with late-onset schizophrenia, focusing on (1) the therapist's involvement with clients who have difficulty speaking and (2) the timing and effects of the life review.

Key Words: life review, late-onset schizophrenia, old age