

Psychological Family Process and Transitions for Gastrostomy

– Focusing on surrogate decision-makers for patient care –

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The purpose of this study is to explore the psychological processes and transitions of family members.

This study focuses on surrogate decision-makers that decide on gastrostomy procedures for a patient who has trouble expressing their intentions. Focusing on the effects of surrogate decision-making and feeling after a gastrostomy depends on participation in care by surrogate decision-makers.

In this study, semi-structured interviews were conducted with three family members who had decided on a gastrostomy for a patient. The interview contents were analyzed. In addition, the author selected only families in which the patient has died. The results indicate the psychological processes and transitions of family members. Additionally, the family's decision-makers continue to experience conflict regarding the surrogate decision-making and care after the patient has died. The study compares three families regarding common points, differences, and characteristics. Utilizing data from three family interviews, this study considers the psychological processes and transitions of family members.