

## **Psychiatric symptoms and diagnosis of battered women in an emergency shelter in TOKYO**

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To evaluate the psychiatric symptoms and diagnosis in battered women just after taking refuge from domestic violence, The General Health Questionnaire-28 (GHQ-28), The Impact of Evidence Scale-Revised (IES-R) and Mini International Neuropsychiatric Interview (MINI) were administered to 50 women with psychiatric and/or physical symptoms who were being cared for in an emergency shelter in Tokyo. The mean age of the subjects was  $34.7 \pm 10.3$  years, and the period of exposure to domestic violence ranged from 1 to 360 months (average 81 months). The mean total GHQ-28 score was  $19.6 \pm 5.7$ . As the average IES-R score was 49.2, 94% of the subjects had a potential diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The total score of IES-R was significantly correlated with the total score of GHQ-28. Using MINI, 64% of the subjects were diagnosed as having major depression, 46% as having PTSD and 28% as having agoraphobia. The most characteristic comorbid diagnoses were major depression and PTSD; that is, 74% of the subjects with PTSD were also diagnosed as having major depression at the same time. The most characteristic diagnosis in battered women just after taking refuge from domestic violence was major depression, PTSD, and a comorbid diagnosis of major depression and PTSD. It is necessary to be aware that the symptoms of PTSD may sometimes be masked by the symptoms of major depression.