

---

## ABSTRACT

On primary maternal preoccupation: Clinical consideration of inpatient treatment

MASUO, Noriyuki

*Graduate School of Human Life Science, Osaka City University*

Winnicott's concept of primary maternal preoccupation was examined in terms of mutuality, and discussed in reference to an inpatient hospital treatment case. A mother empirically understands her baby's psychological needs through her identification with her baby. The adaptation to her baby constitutes mother-infant relationship. This process was discussed from two different perspectives: nature of relationship and ego function. It was supposed that the process of the concept can also occur in a therapeutic relationship. A vignette is presented to discuss this point. The process of the case is that occasional peculiar behavior of the patient was transformed into confusion of the psychologist who was one of treatment staff. This then led to the emergence of the patient's psychotic state, and the confusion was understood as a reflection of the patient's psychic difficulty. The treatment staffs shared this understanding and modified the treatment accordingly. A change in group dynamics of the staff in the process through identification to adaptation was also explored.

**Key Words:** primary maternal preoccupation, holding, ego function, psychic reality, group dynamics

---