OR04-5
SUPPORT FOR THE FAMILIES OF ALCOHOLICS IN THE FACE OF CHANGES IN THE CONTEMPORARY FAMILY: STUDY OF THE SOCIAL WORKER SUPPORT PROCESS
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Purpose. The purpose of this study was to elucidate 1) the actual status of the diversification of families that come to specialty clinics, and 2) how clinic social workers perceive the changes in families and cope with them.

Methods. We conducted interviews of specialty-clinic social workers, and then prepared word-for-word transcriptions of the interviews and analyzed them by a modified grounded theory approach (M-GTA), which is a qualitative research method.

Results. The results showed that there were many families that were troubled by communication even after abstinence, and social workers provided support that assumed a long-term relationship with the family as in the past, e.g., provided information regarding knowledge of the disease, support in which the family aimed at improved communication, etc. By contrast, the changes in families in recent years consisted of "families in which it is difficult to seek changes because of old age" and "families that can choose divorce," and in which traditional support was inadequate. Social workers were "giving consideration to getting them to continue their relationships" by considering together with the family coping techniques that the family could incorporate and setting goals, and by preparing family groups according to their relationships.

Discussion. The results of this study suggested that the "codependent families" that were adequate for traditional support are no longer typical. However, although the data occasionally showed that long-term care providers were troubled, they did not lead to any specific conceptualization, such as shared outlooks in regard to support.