

An Example of a Field Exercise with an Independent Evaluation System

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Medical field exercises are important ways to practice theory and take corrective measures from the lessons learned of the exercise. To accomplish this, independent evaluators are critical. "The National Medical Rescue Team (UMKE) of Turkey II. National Training and Exercise Camp" was an example of a field exercise using an independent evaluation system. The event took place in Kayseri, Turkey between 15 and 18 August 2006. Five hundred fifty UMKE members from 11 cities and North Cyprus UMKE team participated in the event. An independent evaluation committee composed of three members from different fields of expertise observed and evaluated the exercise using an evaluation form. The form includes a total of 90 questions in three areas: (1) preparedness before the exercise; and (2) actions taken during the exercise and the triage. "Yes", "No, and "I do not know" were the response choices for each item. For "Yes" and "No" answers, a Likert-type instrument with five response alternatives was developed. There was also space for any comments regarding each item. Out of 90 evaluations, all evaluators gave seven negative, 59 positive and 24 not known comments. The results of the evaluation showed that the triage success level of UMKE teams was high whereas there is need to improve the training system.

Keywords: evaluation system; field exercise; National Medical Rescue Team; Turkey

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START Triage Exercise at the Gulhane Military Medical Academy, Turkey 2005

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Various triage systems have been developed all over the world. The objective of this study was to evaluate the success and experiences of health personnel as to the method of 'Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment'(START) that was practiced during the Gulhane Military Medical Academy Hospital Disaster Plan Exercise 2005. A total of 91 cases whose triage category was pre-determined, participated in the study. Each part according to the trauma scenario they were provided. Triage teams, while evaluating the cases, looked at brief the information written on the cards hung around the patients' necks that provided ventilatory rate, pulse rate and clinical status. They examined the make-up of each of the mock patients. Results of the triage performed in the field and in the hospital were compared

and the applicability of the START method was discussed. The scenario was prepared with 11 black, 21 red, 25 yellow, and 34 green victims. The hospital triage team designated them as 13 black, 26 red, 26 yellow, 26 green. Some additional cases were triaged into a higher category. It was noted that the dramatic appearances of the patients resulted in triage errors. It was concluded that theoretical training might be inadequate for correct triage practices during mass-casualty situations and they should be supported and developed using future practical exercises.

Keywords: accuracy; exercise; START; training; triage

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Poster Presentations—Theme 2: Education

(3) Effect of Prehospital Trauma Life Support Course on Emergency Medicine Technician's Knowledge in Iran

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Objectives: The objective of this study was to determine the effectiveness of a prehospital trauma life support (PHTLS) course for emergency medicine technicians in Tehran (capital of Iran). The knowledge of 240 technicians was assessed before and three months after the course.

Methods: All of the technicians of the Tehran Emergency Medicine Service participated in the four-day PHTLS course taught by two emergency physicians, a surgeon, and an anaesthesiologist. A standardized questionnaire with 40 questions was administered prior to the course. Three months after the course was completed, another multiple-choice questionnaire that consisted of 40 questions of the same level of difficulty as did the first examination was administered.

Results: All of the 240 technicians were male with a mean value of their ages of 30.1 ±5.1 (SD) years old. The mean pre-course questionnaire score was 17.1 ±3.7 and conversely related to mean age of the technicians. The highest score attained was 26. The mean value for the post-course score was 28.3 ±4.3, and the highest score was 35.

Conclusions: The PHTLS course is an effective strategy to improve the performance of the EMS technicians. However, it is recommended that their trauma management skills and outcomes (patient mortality and morbidity) be evaluated.

Keywords: effectiveness; emergency medical services; Iran; knowledge; Prehospital Trauma Life Support Course; technicians

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(4) Organizing Activities of Undergraduates in Nigerian Universities and Polytechnical School toward the Prevention of Road Traffic Crashes

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Nigeria is classified among the least motorized nations in the world. Ironically, there is an unprecedented rise in mor-

bility and mortality relating to road traffic crashes (RTCs), which has assumed the status of a disaster. The young are not spared. Students in tertiary institutions of learning fall within the high-risk group of inter-city travelers. They traverse the length and breadth of the nation in search of academic pursuits. Undergraduates in tertiary institutions of learning play an important role in ameliorating occurrence of RTCs through organized, student activities within and outside their campuses. Having been equipped with appropriate information on the prevention of RTCs, they could form safety clubs, organize workshops or seminars, and educate inter-city and intra-campus drivers and commuters as well as motorbike “Okada” riders on the importance of highway signs and codes, etc. Additionally, they could conduct rescue drills in preparedness for mass-casualty incidents. The many ways in which University/Polytechnic students can be useful in the reduction of RTCs are addressed.

Keywords: education; Nigeria; preparedness; road traffic crashes (RTCs); safety; students

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(5) Quality Improvement of the Cardiopulmonary-Cerebral Resuscitation Process Based on Standards in the Medical Emergency Ward of Nemazee Hospital in Shiraz, Iran—2005

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Introduction: This interventional study was performed to determine and improve the quality of the Cardiopulmonary-Cerebral Resuscitation (CPCR) process according to standards in the Medical Emergency Ward of Nemazi Hospital in Shiraz, Iran.

Methods: One hundred twenty CPCR processes were observed and evaluated using three checklists that were designed according to standards. The first checklist was designed to evaluate the standard of essential equipment that was used for the performance of CPCR. The second checklist was designed to collect demographic data and evaluate the process of CPCR activities (intubations, chest compressions, electroshock, drug administration, and insertion of intravenous lines) according to “golden hour” standards. The third checklist was designed to evaluate the documentation of the process. In addition, to evaluate knowledge of the personnel about the CPCR process standards, a pre-test was administered to personnel two months before the intervention and a post-test was administered two months after the intervention.

Results: An analysis of the data and the comparisons of the two test periods indicates that the standard use of equipment and the knowledge of personnel significantly increased after the intervention. Also, the standard use of sodium bicarbonate according to golden hour standards was statistically significant. The speed of CPCR Team attendance at the patient’s bedside procedures was increased statistically. The survival rate following the performance of CPCR had no change after the interventions,

but there was a statistically significant increase of survival rates during morning shifts versus evening and night shifts.

Conclusion: Continuous evaluation and education can improve the quality of the CPCR process.

Keywords: Cardiopulmonary Cerebral Resuscitation (CPCR); golden hour; hospital procedures; hospital standards; survival rates
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(6) Images of International Health and Nursing in Japanese College Students

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Introduction: This study examined the concept of “international health” in college students in Japan.

Methods: Subjects were 96 nursing students, 41 physical therapist and occupational therapist students, and 91 other faculty and students who attended the lecture, “International Health” between April 2005 and September 2006. A self-administered questionnaire was distributed to the students to collect the data. The completion rate was 100%.

Results: Ninety-nine percent of the nursing students, 97.6% of the paramedical students, and 93.4% of the other faculty and students answered “hygiene in developing countries” as their perceived image of international health. About 92% of nursing students, 90.2% of paramedical students, and 71.1% of other faculty and students group indicated that they want to participate in disaster relief medical operations.

Conclusion: Nursing and paramedical students are interested in studying international health and disaster medicine. International health education is considered important.

Keywords: college students; developing countries; international health; Japan; nursing students; paramedics

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(7) Simulation Training

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Introduction: The aim of this study was to evaluate the Emergency Medical Care performance when a simulation of a major event that produced multiple victims was performed.

Methods: The prehospital Emergency Medical Services (EMS) received a call for 10 victims in a railway incident at the Oudhna Railway Station (about 19 km from SAMU location) about 25 minutes after the crash. No precise description of the victims’ injuries was indicated. Three ambulances were dispatched within three minutes, as well as a rapid intervention vehicle with two physicians (an observer and a medical care director). Information about the crash was transmitted to the emergency unit of the Public Health Ministry and to all of the emergency services around the site of the event. Upon arrival to the site, the medical care director designated a Chief for the Advanced Medical Post (AMP) which was placed about 300 meters from the area in which the event occurred. All