

Discussion: Universities should strengthen the training for undergraduates to improve their first aid skills. This is a feasible approach to promote a public level of first aid knowledge.

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Issues of Which Organization is Responsible for Hospital Evacuation in Nuclear Disasters

Dr. Masaru Ogasawara¹, Dr. Yuta Sato¹, Dr. Katsunori Ito¹, Dr. Kyoji Saito¹, Dr. Katsuhiko Ito², Prof. Hiroyuki Hanada²

1. Aomori Prefectural Central Hospital, Aomori-shi, Japan
2. Hirosaki University, Hirosaki-shi, Japan

Introduction: At the time of a nuclear disaster, residents should evacuate from areas with high air dose rate. In the Great East Japan Earthquake, about 10% of patients died in a hospital evacuation in which medical teams were not involved in transportation.

Aim: To determine if hospital evacuation improved after the Fukushima nuclear accident.

Methods: This research investigates how the medical system of a nuclear disaster in Japan changed.

Results: There are 41 hospitals designated as Nuclear Emergency Core Hospitals, and they have 53 Nuclear Emergency Medical Assistance Teams (NEMAT; disaster medical dispatching team specialized in nuclear disasters consisting of medical doctors, nurses, and radiological technologists) that can support hospitals and information in the acute phase.

Discussion: At the time of a nuclear disaster, NEMAT is supposed to evacuate residents from the Urgent Protective Action Planning Zone (UPZ; within about 30 km radius). Tens of thousands to one million people live in this area. Hospital evacuation of more than several thousand patients is necessary. The entry of workers for transportation vehicles and lifeline restoration is limited within UPZ, so staying in a hospital is virtually impossible. There are over 2000 Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT), and many Red Cross Relief Teams; both of which are stipulated not to conduct clinical treatment in high dose areas and are not educated on nuclear disasters. Although there are Radiation Emergency Medical Assistance Teams (REMAT) consisting of doctors and technicians specializing in radiation medicine, they are few in number. They can perform dose assessment, but general medical care cannot be performed because an emergency physician is not included. Therefore, although NEMATs will conduct emergency and hospital evacuation in the affected area, the number of teams is too small to respond. The issue of which organization is responsible for massive hospital evacuation remains unsolved.

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The Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of Search and Rescue Teams of Sri Lanka Army Regarding Search and Rescue as a Response to Disasters

Dr. Saminda Kumara, Dr. Sarveen Semage

Sri Lanka Army Health Services, Gampaha, Sri Lanka

Introduction: Sri Lanka Army is a valuable resource for the country as a capacity factor in disaster situations. Sri Lanka Army has established Search and Rescue teams (SAR teams) in all 25 districts.

Aim: To describe the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of SAR teams regarding search and rescue as a response to disasters.

Methods: A descriptive cross-sectional study was carried out from October to December 2017. Five platoons were selected randomly from high and medium risk district categories, and all five platoons were selected from the low-risk category. The total sample size was 465. A pre-tested self-administered questionnaire was employed.

Results: The median age was 28 years. 3.2% were officers, 96.8% were soldiers, the majority (80.4%) were educated up to G.C.E. (O/L), and 62.4% were married. 52.9% of the population had undergone SAR training during the past three years in Sri Lanka, and none had undergone training outside of the country. Overall knowledge regarding search and rescue as a response to disasters seem to be good (57.2% received higher than a score of 75%). 93.8% has desirable positive attitudes. 73.5% had participated in search and rescue operation as a response to disasters. Overall practices seemed to be poor, (71.3% of the population received lower than a score of 75%). A statistically significant association was observed with a level of education ($p = 0.001$), designation ($p = 0.004$), and knowledge on search and rescue as a response to disasters. Level of education, designation, and SAR training had no significant association with attitudes on search and rescue as a response to disasters. A statistically significant association was observed with designation ($p = 0.021$) and practices.

Discussion: Search and rescue drills should be carried out regularly. Knowledge of search and rescue as a response to disasters should be incorporated into training programs for officers and soldiers.

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Lack of Prioritization Causes Extended Time to Assessment of Severely Injured Trauma Patients in a Resource-Scarce Emergency Department

Dr. Maria Lampi¹, MD John Tabu², Dr. Johan Junker¹, Professor Andreas Wladis¹

1. Centre for Teaching and Research in Disaster Medicine & Traumatology, Linköping, Sweden
2. Moi University College of Health and Science, Department of Disaster Risk Management, Eldoret, Kenya

Introduction: The time between injury and medical intervention is crucial in trauma care. Triage is essential to ensure prioritization and timely assessment of injured patients.

Aim: To investigate how the lack of triage system impacts timely intervention in a sub-Saharan hospital emergency department, and to investigate potential benefits of triage towards efficient management of trauma patients.

Methods: A prospective study including adult trauma patients admitted to the emergency department at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret, Kenya, was conducted. Mode