

(251) Injuries due to the Bam Earthquake in Iran*H. Hatamabady*¹; *M. Karimi*²

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Introduction: Iran is a country with an area of 1,648,195 km² and a population of >68,000,000 people. The devastating earthquake in the Bam District of Kerman Province struck on 26 December 2003, leaving a total of 29,878 people dead and 22,628 injured. The earthquake measured as 7.4 on the Richter scale. The main aim of this study was to determine the frequency of physical injuries.

Material and Methods: The data from 206 patients were collected from the medical records, physical examinations, and paraclinics of earthquake victims who were admitted to Hazrat Rasol Hospital in Tehran.

Results: The majority of patients were in 20–29 years of age. The female/male ratio was 1.51. The overall mortality rate was 2%. The most frequent injuries were lower extremity, pelvic, and spinal fractures, respectively. Of the patients with extremity fractures, 4.9% were open, and 95.1% were closed. Nineteen patients underwent fasciotomy for relief of the compartment syndrome. Of the pelvic fractures, 7.9% were unstable, and there were spinal cord injuries in 32% of the vertebral fracture cases. Other injuries had less frequency and included pneumothorax, hemothorax, abdominal viscous injuries, rib fractures, and head injuries.

Conclusions: The main problems in these victims were orthopedic. These types of injuries must be prepared for in the future.

Keywords: Bam; disasters; injuries; Iran; orthopedic

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(252) 2005 Pakistan Earthquake Experience

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One month after the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan, a Georgian medical team consisting of a surgeon, a pediatrician, an anesthesiologist, and two nurses, went to Pakistan to provide medical assistance to the local population. The group arrived in Islamabad on 28 October 2005, where they were met by a representative from Johanniter International, the organization with which they were to work. The group then travelled to Batala, which is situated in the northern part of Pakistan, 1,600 meters above sea level.

Accompanied by the military service of Pakistan, the group went to villages in the region that were located at a higher elevation, and worked on population ambulatory examinations, diagnoses, prescriptions, and providing medications. An average of 300 patients were examined daily. Diseases identified that are common to this situation included viral infections, pneumonia, diarrhea, skin infections, and others. Up to 30 seriously ill patients were sent to the hospital. This population would have benefitted from a greater volume of medical assistance. During the period

spent in Pakistan up to 2,500 patients were examined by this group.

Even a month after the disaster, medical teams continued to provide the necessary assistance. This work must be installed permanently in the region through alternating medical teams. If this is not instituted, we believe expenses will increase and the effectiveness of work will decrease.

Keywords: disaster; earthquake; Georgia; medical team; Pakistan

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(253) Bam Iran Earthquake: The Experiences of a Turkish Medical Team

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On 26 December, 2003, an earthquake occurred in Iran with a magnitude of 6.5 on the Richter Scale. The earthquake happened at 05:26h and lasted for three minutes. The epicenter was located in Bam City and the damages resulted in approximately 25,000 fatalities, 50,000 injured, and rendered 100,000 people homeless. The activities of a 50-person, primary care, health provider team sent from Turkey following the request of the Iranian government are described in this study. Within three days following the earthquake, the chaotic environment was taken under control, water supplies were chlorinated, and ambulatory health care was provided to the local population. These activities helped the team gain significant disaster response experience in the field. In light of the lessons learned here, preparations have been started for future missions.

Keywords: Bam earthquake; experience; primary care; response team; Turkey

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(254) Indonesia Tsunami: Turkish Medical Team Experiences

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On 26 December 2004, just before 06:58 hours (h)(local time), an earthquake occurred that measured 9.3 on the Richter Scale. The epicenter of this earthquake was off the west coast of northern Sumatra, and the resulting tsunami waves were 10–12 meters high, travelling at a speed of 500 km/h. As a result of the tsunami, nearly 230,000 people lost their lives and 1.5 million people remained homeless. Including Turkey, 41 countries and 9 international bodies assisted the affected countries.

First, a Turkish aircraft arrived at Thailand, Bangkok and next, military C-130 airplanes of Turkish Armed Forces arrived in Banda Aceh. The Sahra Hospital was activated and three different teams were assembled. The services provided included medical treatment, surgical interventions, general medical check-ups, environmental health, water supply and sanitation, toilet care, and health education. Over a 10 day period, 6,824 people took advantage of these medical services. There was no communication between the Sahra Hospital camp and the rest of the outside world. Transportation was sufficient. The teams supplied all their needs through their