

A total of 82% of the study population believed that fear of an epidemic causes people to panic. Seventy-two percent of the study population agreed to be quarantined and obey instructions. Ninety-three percent of decision-makers agree that it is necessary to find a way to achieve voluntary isolation. A total of 93% of the study population thought that media presence and reports increase the public's anxiety and that epidemic information should be conveyed to the public by the Ministry of Health. All of the decision-makers agree to a national-level preparedness plan.

Keywords: epidemic; national-level organizational model; outbreak; pandemics; preparedness

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(F44) Kenyan Traditional Circumcision a Protective Measure Against Spread of HIV/AIDS

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Background: Kenyans provide high-profile control of the spread HIV and AIDS through their traditional circumcision rites. The protective effect of circumcision on HIV incidence in rural, low-risk men circumcised predominantly by traditional circumcisers in Kenya was studied.

Methods: A total of 1,378 men were evaluated. Baseline socio-demographic and behavioral HIV risk characteristics were compared between 270 uncircumcised and 1,108 circumcised men.

Results: Of the men included in this study, 80.4% were circumcised, and 73.9% were circumcised by traditional circumcisers. Circumcision was associated with tribal affiliation, high school education, fewer marriages, and smaller age difference between spouses.

Conclusions: Circumcision by traditional circumcisers offers protection from HIV infection in adult men in rural Kenya.

Keywords: AIDS; circumcision; HIV; pandemic; protective measures

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(F45) Hepatitis B Infection among Drug Users: Findings from Kathmandu

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Background: Drug addicts admitted to rehabilitation centers in Kathmandu were studied. The aim of the study was to review the records and analyze the laboratory reports of >2 years (2004–2006). The main objective of the study was to study the epidemiological factors in relation to Hepatitis B infection among the drug users.

Methods: Data collected from the laboratory were analyzed by experts and healthcare providers. A total of 600 drug addicts were involved in the study.

Results: Among the total 600 drug addicts, 11% were injection drug users (IDUs), 70% of the IDUs shared needles, 15% were multiple drug users, and 18% had a history of exposure to commercial sex workers (CSWs). Among the total drug addicts, 5.6% were Hepatitis B-positive, which was determined by their HBsAg status. Hepatitis B status was positive among 15% IDUs, 4.9% of multiple

drug users, 6.7% of needle sharers, and 14% of the addicts exposed to commercial sex. A model was constructed to understand the association between HBsAg status as a dependent variable and various forms of drug use and addiction as independent variables. Injection drug users were at >9 times and exposure to CSWs at five times higher risk to develop hepatitis B infection.

Conclusions: The factors that influence the HBsAg status of the drug addicts are multiple behavior factors. While designing interventions among the drug addicts, various behavior factors should be considered.

Keywords: commercial sex workers; Hazards; Hepatitis B; infection; injection drug users; Nepal

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(F46) It's Not a Question of If but When and How Bad: Stage 6, Pandemic H5N1: Increased and Sustained Transmission in the General Population—A Clear and Present Danger

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The global healthcare community is unprepared for the inevitable pandemic caused by infectious agents such as the H5N1 virus. Unified Incident Command Systems and surge capacity triage algorithms fail to focus on ventilator allocation and rationing that will occur during such an event. Triage supervisors will decide who lives and who dies by applying aggressive assessments and clinical decisions.

In an effort to formulate an effective triage system for a pandemic event, actively networking with federal, state, community, and global disaster response specialists, reviewing evidence-based data on mass-casualty incidents and attending international conferences on disaster medicine will be essential. It should incorporate existing and modified triage algorithms and operational plans.

Multiple disaster triage algorithms require significant modifications and must be standardized to address avian influenza, mass-casualty incidents. Existing Unified Incident Command Systems remain dangerously flawed and unable to provide the required disciplined and unified command necessary to address or support effective ventilator triage.

Many patients, including children, may require ventilatory support within 48 hours of this event. This will require the restructuring of existing triage algorithms to include a primary focus on ventilator rationing, rapid and determined quality-of-life assessments, and extensive and sophisticated triage training.

Keywords: health care; mass-casualty incident; pandemic; population; triage

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(F47) Emergency Department Preparedness for Detection of an Infectious Disease Outbreak

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Singapore is a global travel hub with thousands of visitors passing through its borders every day. The emergency