

negative. All blood type groups were documented with coded identification cards so this information could be retrieved easily when needed.

Such pre-crash data had positive effects on trauma and other systemic emergency care requiring blood transfusions. The time lag in obtaining blood was significantly reduced, thus enhancing survival of victims.

In conclusion, blood type data from all stakeholders should be well documented to facilitate blood transfusion during major crises or disasters.

Keywords: auto-bike; blood types; Nigeria; traffic crashes; transfusion
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(243) Reporting Blindly in Randomized Controlled Trials in Prehospital Emergency Medicine Literature

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Introduction: Double blind is a term that frequently is used by researchers and accepted by readers as a key marker of the validity of a randomized controlled trial (RCT). Double-blind trials tend to report smaller effects than similar trials that are not double blind. In most clinical trials the success of the blinding procedures is assumed, but not tested. Sub-optimal reporting of blinding in full text publications and secondary journals has hindered readers. Trials in prehospital medicine are difficult to conduct due to numerous reasons, both logistic and ethical. However, it would be prudent to strive to achieve methodological standards in designing and reporting RCTs. The objective of this study is to assess how often the success of blinding is tested in RCTs in prehospital medicine, to describe the methods used, and to assess the frequency of trials with successful blinding

Methods: Prehospital randomized controlled trials using the Cochrane prehospital search filter were identified using MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL, and The Cochrane Library. Full paper versions of randomized controlled trials will be retrieved, hand and electronically searched, and assessed for reports of blinding with the test for success of blinding. Two reviewers will abstract data and analyze results. Statistical analysis will be conducted using Microsoft Excel.

Results: The work is in progress and will be presented at WCDEM 2007.

Conclusions: It is difficult to conduct double-blind randomized controlled trials in prehospital emergency medicine due to logistic and ethical reasons. If double blind RCTs are conducted, those conducting the trials should describe the methods of blinding and matching characteristics in detail.

Keywords: double-blinding; literature; prehospital; randomized controlled trial (RCT); success

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(244) Mobilizing a Rapid Assessment of Population Health and Social Service Needs Subsequent to a Large-Scale Disaster

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Hurricane Katrina led to the largest population movement in contemporary American history, and engendered substantial population needs among evacuees and displaced populations. Using housing data supplied by the US Federal Emergency Management Agency, a research team developed a multi-stage cluster sampling plan, assembled a collaborative fieldwork operation involving five university science centers. A total of 1,245 face-to-face household surveys were conducted in Louisiana and Mississippi to assess the population's health and social service needs. The cooperation rate among contacted respondents was 83%. The logistics of mounting such an assessment effort in a developed country will be presented, and include: (1) the establishment of administrative, field, and data protocols; (2) the assembly and training of a survey research team; (3) the management of material and transportation logistics; and (4) the maintenance of high-quality data and research integrity in the face of field challenges.

The Louisiana field work was completed in nine days; the Mississippi field work was completed in 18 days. The research team abided by four principles: (1) using survey measures comparable to a national data set in order to approximate "pre-" and "post-" disaster conditions; (2) using standardized mental health and physical health scales, to allow for cross-study comparisons; (3) adopting and maintaining a rigorous sampling protocol, in order to maximize the level of representation of the sample; and (4) streamlining the implementation and reporting cycles so as to provide policy-makers and providers with timely data. The presentation will elaborate upon the planning considerations involved in mounting such research operations in post-disaster environments.

Keywords: Hurricane Katrina; population; public health; assessment; survey

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(246) Disaster and Risk Assessment of Chemical in the Workplace

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Objectives: The objective of this study is to look into disaster and risk management in occupational settings where workers are exposed to organic chemicals.

Methods: The study was conducted among 500 workers in various manufacturing industries. There was 100% use of chemicals in the industries, either as raw material or as solvent for processing. The industries generated dust and vapours, as well as acids and caustics. The blood lead result of the 285 subjects revealed that 40.7% of subjects had within the 21–30 ug/dL, which the Department of Health considers to be inimical to health of workers. When hazards and illness were correlated with alpha set at 0.05, radiation expo-