

increased likelihood of accidental over dosage. Deaths have been reported as a result of all of these drugs.

The current literature, guidelines, and trends of use of these drugs were reviewed, and recent research identifying their pharmacodynamics, as well as potential novel methods of treatment, will be discussed. Experiences in providing prehospital medical support at music festivals and the morbidity associated with the use of such drugs at these events will be reported.

The aim of this report is to guide hospital and prehospital healthcare providers in managing such patients, informing their clinical decisions, and enabling the best use of limited resources.

Keywords: club drugs; gamma-hydroxybutyrate; hospital; music festivals; prehospital

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(113) Planning for Waves: Is It the Same as Preparing for a Disaster?

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The World Life Saving Championships were held on the Coast of Victoria, Australia in February 2006. Four thousand competitors representing 29 nations competed at three different venues over 16 days. The primary location of the beach events was Lorne, a rural, beachside community of approximately 1,200 residents. A small community hospital offers basic radiology and pathology services during business hours and staffs a volunteer ambulance. The different levels of vulnerability associated with such an event creates the need for proper planning and preparedness.

Limited health services in combination with security, transport and logistics, shelter, water, and medical supplies—not to mention temporary structures supporting an expected 20,000 spectators—were just a few of the potential emergency. In total, 350 patients were managed with only three patients transferred out of the event.

This presentation will review the planning and preparation that went into running the medical and water safety teams, with particular focus on the unpredictable variations in meteorologic conditions, satellite event locations, and limited routine health resources. Risk assessment of potential emergencies from sporting injuries, mass water casualties, and drug- or alcohol-affected patrons attending evening functions also are discussed.

The use of a generic scoring system to assess the health risks at such a mass gathering will be illustrated. The integration of statistics and experience allowed for the implementation of strategies that reduced the impact of the event on the local health services.

Keywords: local health services; mass gathering; planning; preparedness; strategies; World Life-Saving Championships

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(114) Plans for Management of Mass Losses from Airplane Show: Air Demonstrations “Archangel” and “Red Arrows”

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The Military Aviation undertook the organization of an International Air Demonstration called “Archangel” in the Airport of Tanagra from 16–18 September 2005. Planes from many countries participated in the event, with dynamic (acrobatic) and static exhibitions. There was a large attendance.

On 09 June 2005 and 06 January 2006, the British air demonstration “Red Arrows” took place in the region of P.Faliron, also drawing a large attendance. According to the international definition (>1000 individuals), the event constituted a mass gathering, which required the application of special sanitary support rules. However, the development of a plan that covered all of the possible emergency situation of sanitary support was impossible due to the lack of previous experience.

Mass-gathering in open-air locations have shown that the most common medical problems mainly are pathological (69%) and surgical (31%). The medical personnel will recognize immediately the health status of every patient and mobilize the services of sanitary support. No serious problem occurred and the preparedness and collaboration of all involved institutions was very good. The existence of a common coordinative center was absolutely essential.

Keywords: air demonstrations; airplanes; mass-gathering; preparedness; sanitary support

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(115) Emergency Medical Services Personnel Training in Weapons of Mass Destruction Casualties Management

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The aim of this study was to identify difficulties regarding the training of emergency medical service (EMS) personnel in non-conventional trauma.

This training was part of the special training for the Athens 2004 Olympic Games for the doctors, nurses, and paramedics, who were members of the weapons of mass destruction (WMD) response team of the Hellenic National System for Emergency Care. The training was organized by EKAB and provided to 225 participants.

There were no differences observed between physicians, nurses, and paramedics, regarding the specialized knowledge in nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) environments. Only 37.6% of the participants had no basic knowledge of mass-casualty incident management. The vast majority of