s120 Lessons from the Field

- Department Of Anesthesia And Intensive Care, Percy Military Teaching Hospital, CLAMART/France
- Burn Center, Percy Military Teaching Hospital, CLAMART/ France
- Department Thoracic Surgery Department, Percy Military Teaching Hospital, CLAMART/France
- 4. Digestive And General Surgery Department, Percy Military Teaching Hospital, CLAMART/France

Study/Objective: Objective of this study is to report the management by a military hospital of an influx of civilian casualties due to terror attacks.

Background: During the night of November 13, 2015, Percy army teaching hospital received 17 wounded in two convoys.

Methods: Retrospective, descriptive study

Results: Except one, all patients (8 AU and 9 RU) had GSW and nearly half of the patients had thoracic injuries (no body armor) in contrast to recent military series. Triage of GSW was easier than injuries by explosion. The hospital was away from sites of the attacks with a delay of two hours before the arrival of the first patient. Five trauma bays for AU were prepared with for each 1 anesthesiologist, 1 nurse, 1 anesthetist nurse. Eight patients were hospitalized in ICU. A binomial surgeon-anesthetist was in charge of triage which is the rule in French army. Before arrival of first casualties, bracelets with a temporary identity were generated to avoid any mistake of identity. During the first hours; 32 PRBC, 32 lyophilized plasmas and 3 platelet concentrates were transfused without incident. The use of the universal lyophilized plasma specific to the French army facilitated immediate transfusion. Prior to the arrival of the first patient, it was decided that only damage control procedures would be authorized regardless of the clinical condition (collective indications of damage control). The goal of this decision was to optimize the use of operating theaters. This decision was motivated by the risk of second attacks and experience of managing a large number of wounded with a limited operating theaters number during deployments. Operating theaters like the rest of the hospital were never saturated. As in times of war, the transmission of information between the different levels of care was difficult.

Conclusion: Military skills are useful in managing an influx of casualties.

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Pray for the Best, Prepare for the Worst: Cholera Treatment Ward Preparation of Novice Haitian Healthcare Staff Sean Smith

Critical-care Professionals International, Critical-Care Professionals International, Durham/United States of America

Study/Objective: To describe the preparing of Haitian Healthcare staff for triaging and management of cholera patients.

Background: Haiti has endemic cholera. This is exacerbated by our (yearly) rainy season. In 2016, this was further worsened by Hurricane Matthew, allowing massive contamination of water supplies in southern Haiti. This resulted in a much greater need

for Haitian healthcare workers with no previous exposure to this patient population, to be able to effectively recognize, treat and contain potential cholera patients.

Methods: Observational discussion and lessons learned from setting up a Cholera Treatment Ward in Southern Haiti, post Hurricane Matthew.

Results: Haitian Healthcare workers with no prior experience or capacity for treating cholera developed an effective knowledge base, skillset, and Cholera Treatment Ward (CTW), thereby proactively heightening local disaster management capabilities.

Conclusion: Many of our lessons learned are applicable to a wide variety of disasters, infectious diseases, capacity building situations and would be of interest to WADEM members' attendees.

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Does Planning and Preparation Help in Disaster Risk Management? A Nepal Experience

Pradeep Vaidya

Department of Surgery, Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, Kathmandu/Nepal

Study/Objective: To review the response mechanism and the preparation before the Nepal earthquake, for effective preparation and response.

Background: Nepal which lies between two large countries of China and India and is prone to natural disasters including earthquakes, floods, landslides and severe weather events. Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) ranks Nepal as the 11th most at risk country in the world in terms of relative vulnerability to earthquake. The (last year) earthquake in Nepal had caused nearly 9,000 deaths compared to the expected 100,000 deaths, and this is due to the timing of the event. The earthquake occurred on Saturday, so all the schools and offices were on holiday, that is the one important reason for the lower number of casualties; and the other is the preparedness of the Ministry of Health and the hospitals. The first factor was not in our hands to modify but the second one was. Two factors, one was that the government had taken the lead of all the disaster preparedness by various International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) through the cluster system. The Second is the training in disaster preparedness by the course called Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies developed by US Aid.

Methods: Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE), Primary Trauma Care (PTC), Emergency protocols were conducted and the Health Emergency Operation Center (HEOC) was prepared before the earthquake which helped in saving many lives. The HUB hospital system was implemented by Ministry of Health to coordinate better among the hospitals. Results: All of this preparedness may not have worked completely, but the review organized by WHO and Ministry of Health, Nepal after the disaster showed that these training protocols and HEOC had really helped to treat patients systematically.