

around the world should work toward scientific achievements in this particular field. Considering the enormous disaster potential in Turkey, Turkey should lead the way in contributing to the specialty of disaster medicine. This should be an institutional, social, national, and global responsibility. Worldwide efforts also should serve this need with similar intentions. Disaster specialists should be certified, because that could result in an increase in the number of articles published in international journals. If disaster medicine was considered a separate specialty, global academic advancement could be made in the field. Today, academicians do not seem to be interested in disaster medicine because there is not much they can contribute to the field. But if the specialty could be established, there would be more comprehensive goals in the field of disaster medicine. In this study, the idea that more scientific studies relating to human lives could be performed if the disaster medicine is set as a separate specialty of medicine.

Keywords: disaster medicine; education; international; medical specialty; medicine; Turkey

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(39) First Responders First: A Model for Prophylaxing First Responders during an Epidemic

K.A. Qureshi,¹ E. Scanlon²

1. University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawaii USA
2. Nassau County Department of Health, Nassau County, New York USA

In the United States, the national plan for population-based emergency vaccinations or prophylaxis calls for protecting first responders (e.g., fire, police, emergency medical services (EMS), public health, and hospital staff) first. The Nassau County Department of Health (NC-DOH) developed a plan to operate first-responder point-of-distribution clinics (FR-PODs) through the county's 71 local volunteer fire/EMS departments and police departments.

The NC-DOH collaborated with these agencies to develop a FR-POD plan. In this plan, the majority of the staffing came from a variety of volunteer groups, including firefighters, emergency medical technicians, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members. Over the course of one year, this diverse group of volunteers received training on the incident command system, basic POD operations, the role of MRC and CERT volunteers imbedded in a FR-POD, and the role of public health during an epidemic. At each training program, pre-/post-tests and a course evaluation were administered. In June 2006, the ability of the volunteers to perform in the FR-PODs was tested during a large scale, county-wide drill that included the police, nine fire/EMS departments, and 12 hospitals. Paid and volunteer workers ($n = 674$) who received FR-POD training processed 4,246 recipients over 4–6 hours. The plan and the training were successful. Volunteers were able to perform their emergency response functional roles, problems or issues were rapidly identified and addressed, the average thru-put time for recipients was approximately 20 minutes, and 99% of recipients would have received the correct medication as per the established protocol.

Keywords: education; epidemic; first responders; prophylaxis; training

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(40) University Students Triage Training (A Preventive Program)

A. Ali Madadi,¹ J. Mohtashami,² Z. Sadat³

1. Tehran, Iran
2. Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran
3. Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

Introduction: As societies are developing, the necessity for professional interventions in order to protect the health of the people is becoming clear. The increasing population and lack of professional personnel are among the factors increasing the risk coefficient. In addition to reinforcement troops, there are other human resources that can provide suitable support. If medical triage courses are successful in educating students, they may provide potential support for triage. The aim of this research is studying the need for the medical education in triage from the students' perspective.

Methods: The perspectives of 100 students (46 female, 54 male) of various fields in the University of Tehran were assessed using a self-reporting questionnaire.

Results: Of these students, 95% expressed that triage education should be a requirement, 95% believed this education is not merely for reinforcement troops, and 90% believed that an experimental (practical) credit should be added to the university course. Ninety percent declared that education in triage helped increase family members' sense of security.

Discussion: Students from every society can act as a logistic force during a disaster response. Thus, the implementation of a practical credit in the university can help familiarize triage fundamentals and must be considered as a preventive program.

Keywords: education; Iran; personnel; students; triage; university

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(41) Use of a Highly-Equipped Manikin in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Classes Could Improve the Efficacy of Training

T.G. Loukas,¹ K. Kritikos,² B. Gerodimou,² A. Kotzias,² M. Poriazi,² S. Nanas²

1. Elefsina, Greece
2. Critical Care Department, Medical School, Athens, Greece

Objectives: Medical students are expected to be able to perform basic life support. A prospective study to assess the level of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills of medical students after completion of a manikin-assisted CPR classes was performed.

Methods: One hour after attending a CPR class, 68 medical students participated in a prospective, observational study. A full-torso manikin was connected to a computer. The students performed CPR for two minutes, and the number of ventilations, average tidal volume, rhythm of compressions, and compression depth were recorded.

Results: The compression rate was between 90–110/min in 82% (56/68) of trials, while 18% (12/68) were >110/min. The compression depth was 40–50 mm in 47% (32/68), <40 mm in 12% (8/68), and >50 mm in 41% (28/68). Four students (6%) managed to perform two rescue breaths, 12 (18%) succeeded in four attempts, 16 (24%) in five attempts, 20 (28%) in six attempts, and 16 (24%) in eight