

## High Prevalence of Acute Pancreatitis during the Ramadan Fast

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**Study/Objective:** Our study tried to identify different patterns of occurrence during the Ramadan fast of Acute Pancreatitis (AP).

**Background:** Acute Pancreatitis (AP) is an acute inflammatory process of the pancreas. The aim of this study is to retrospectively screen and record the Muslim and non-Muslim patients, admitted to the emergency department with acute pancreatitis over a ten-year period, in order to identify different pattern of occurrence during the Ramadan fast.

**Methods:** The study was conducted at the Emergency Department of Rabin Medical Center (Beilinson campus) in Petach Tikva, Israel. We compared the occurrence ratio of AP in Muslim populations and non-Muslim populations during the Ramadan fasting days, versus the rest of the year. We reviewed the medical records of Muslim patients admitted to the emergency department during the Ramadan fast period, to identify those who had reported that they fasted. In order to calculate prevalence of acute pancreatitis, we recorded the overall admissions to the emergency department during the years 2006–2016, of Muslim and non-Muslim patients.

**Results:** Over the 10-year study period, 1,167 patients were admitted to the emergency department with a diagnosis of acute AP. The number of patients with AP during the Ramadan periods were statistically significance between the non-Muslim and the Muslim groups 95 (8.8%) patients vs. 17(17.3%) patients,  $p = 0.01$ , respectively). The prevalence of AP during the Ramadan periods among Muslim were 11.28 for 10,000 vs. 8.9 for 10,000 for Muslims in other periods vs. 7 per 10,000 for the cohort population in ant period ( $p < 0.001$ ).

**Conclusion:** We found a high prevalence rate of acute pancreatitis in the Muslim population during the Ramadan fast. Physicians should be aware of this link and suspect it, for Muslim patients presenting with epigastric pain during the Ramadan fast. The proposed mechanism for the development of pancreatitis is acute gastric dilation.

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## Patient Safety in Greek Hospitals

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**Study/Objective:** This paper aims to investigate the problem of patient safety in Greek hospitals.

**Background:** Safety issues for hospitalized patients have been a great concern for health care providers over the last 15 years. In developed countries, one in 10 patients experiences the

consequences of a medical error during hospitalization. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines patient safety as their protection from preventable injuries that occur during the provision of health care, and at the same time, it sets patient safety as a world priority regarding health issues.

**Methods:** Greek and international publications in PUBMED during the last 10 years, and data collected by highly certified international organizations (WHO, OECD, HCDCP, JC, and AHRQ), have been extensively reviewed. We also present the results of a small indicative questionnaire on Hand Hygiene. Keywords: “Patient safety;” “Medical error;” and “Greek Hospital.”

**Results:** The majority of Greek citizens believe that health care services provided in the country are inferior compared to countries of the European Union. In most hospitals, there are neither established protocols on the safe management of patients nor integrated reporting systems of the adverse events. Informed consent is inadequate. Prescription of antibiotics is two-fold compared to the average rate in the OECD countries. The shortage of nursing staff worsened after the economic crisis emerged. The average number of nurses per 1,000 residents is 3.6, compared to 9.1 in OECD countries. Burnt out syndrome is reported by 78% of the nursing staff. The most of medical errors are reported by Surgery and Obstetrics (20% and 16%, respectively). On the other hand, there is good monitoring and recording of adverse events in blood transfusions.

**Conclusion:** It is obvious that we need better education, development of reporting systems, supportive work environment, loyal implementation of internationally recognized practices, and collaboration among the different health care structures.

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## An Epidemiological Survey Correlating with Survival Probability in Cases of Abdominal Trauma in a Rural Setup

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**Study/Objective:** The study was designed to assess epidemiology of abdominal trauma in a rural setup, and correlate it with survival probability of the patient, through revised trauma score.

**Background:** Trauma is a major public health problem in every country, with abdominal trauma being 3rd most common. The profile and pattern of abdominal trauma is changing with a progressing civilization. Understanding mechanisms of injury is crucial, while managing a patient with abdominal trauma. An epidemiological assessment of trauma can help to predict mortality and morbidity. Early diagnosis, sound clinical judgement and prompt intervention in abdominal trauma is necessary. **Methods:** The study comprised of 50 patients of abdominal trauma attending the emergency department, in whom the epidemiological profile of trauma was recorded as ‘per prescribed proforma’, and later correlated with revised trauma score and survival probability.