

Conclusion: Collaboration between Asian countries and Japanese emergency medical teams on emergency medical care in sudden-onset events are very important and should be promoted.

Keywords: emergency medical team; Indonesia; Japan; management strategies; Sumatra earthquake

Prehosp Disast Med 2007;22(2):s76–s77

(129) If I Get Trapped under Debris after an Earthquake, What Should I do while Waiting for Help?

M. Eryilmaz;¹ C. Yigitler;² N. Sarp;³ M. Durusu;¹ J. Levett;⁵ M. Durmus⁴

1. Gulhane Military Medical Academy (GMMA), Ankara, Turkey
2. Regional Military Hospital, Balikesir, Turkey
3. Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey
4. Public Health School, Athens, Greece

Many studies have been conducted on the mass injuries that occurred as a result of the 1999 Marmara Great Earthquake, and the protection measures that have been identified. The number of scientific studies has increased constantly, especially those concerning mitigation measures and health care services provided after an earthquake. Most of the studies are conducted for the pre- and post-disaster period. However, the issue of “what people should do when they are trapped under concrete blocks” has been ignored in Turkey where earthquakes are the most common cause of disasters. In this study, opinions are presented that have been compiled from the remarks shared within various national and international e-mail groups related to the field.

Keywords: earthquake; entrapment; injuries; Turkey; victims; waiting

Prehosp Disast Med 2007;22(2):s77

(130) Methoxyflurane is a Safe, Easy, Effective Analgesic for Prehospital Pain Relief

H.F. Oxeer;¹ G. Wilkes²

1. St. John Ambulance Western Australia, Perth, Australia
2. Edith Cowan University, Perth, Australia

Introduction: Methoxyflurane analgesia has been used since 1961, and has been used in Australian ambulances since 1978. Little is published on its effectiveness. Two years of data from St. John Western Australian Ambulance Service was examined.

Methods: Ambulance data from the metropolitan Perth area from 01 July 2004–30 June 2006 were reviewed. Of the 13,313 methoxyflurane administrations, complete data were available for 10,706. The most Common indications were trauma and musculoskeletal injury. Data for effectiveness was compared with 3,257 administrations of intranasal fentanyl administrations. A simple three-point score was used, which correlates well with verbal pain scoring.

Results: Overall, 54.3% (5,814) of patients reported good/excellent relief; 38.4% (4,112) partial relief; and 7.3% (780) no relief. Of the children >12 years of age, 67.8%

(173) experienced good/excellent relief; 24.3% (62) partial; and 7.8% (20) no relief. For those >12 years of age, 54.5% (5,641) reported good/excellent analgesia; 38.1% (3,950) partial; 7.1% (760) no relief.

The results for fentanyl were similar—overall, good/excellent relief 52.9%(1722), partial 39.8%(1295), no relief 7.4%(240). In each group, >90% of the patients received good or partial relief.

Discussion: In Australia, methoxyflurane is used widely in ambulances, defence forces, sports injuries, industry, and increasingly in hospital, dentistry, interventional radiology and short, painful surgical procedures. The history of renal damage as an anesthetic is irrelevant, as renal toxicity has been shown to be completely dose related (Mazze et al). The method of administering methoxyflurane analgesia does not allow toxic doses. In 28 years of use in this ambulance service, no significant safety issue was reported.

Conclusions: Methoxyflurane is a safe, convenient, effective analgesic agent for use in prehospital care.

Keywords: Australia; methoxyflurane; pain; pain relief; prehospital

Prehosp Disast Med 2007;22(2):s77

(131) Elderly Patients in Prehospital Medicine

E. Iakovidou;¹ E. Palli;² G. Garoufalos;² S. Zaragas;² I Stamos;² P. Vergopoulou;² P. Dedeilias;² I. Kalogridaki;² D. Pyrros²

1. N. Psychico, Greece
2. National Center of Emergency Care (EKAB), Athens, Greece

Introduction: The elderly represent a high proportion of the population who require emergency medical care. The aim of this study was to evaluate the epidemiological characteristics and the common diseases affecting the elderly who required emergency care from the prehospital emergency medical system.

Methods: In this study, 252 patients, ≥70 years of age, were included. There were more female patients (52.3%) than males and the mean age of the retrospectively examined patients was 75.3 years.

Results: The following causes for the use of the prehospital medical system by the elderly were identified: (1) 72 patients had cardiovascular problems; (2) 65 patients had respiratory problems; (3) 45 patients were victims of trauma incidents; and (4) 32 patients had electrolyte, metabolic; and/or endocrine disorders. For the remaining 38 patients, the main problem was an altered level of consciousness.

Conclusion: The elderly represent a high percentage of patients who use the prehospital emergency medical system. The medical staff often must treat more than one medical problem experienced by the elderly. Supportive care of the respiratory and cardiovascular system remains the primary strategy in the majority of the cases, while a diagnostic work-up and a definitive treatment also are considered very important for the treatable cases.

Keywords: cardiovascular; elderly; emergency care; prehospital; respiratory

Prehosp Disast Med 2007;22(2):s77