

matic injuries due to accidents repeatedly aroused our attention to make a further evaluation of their underlying disease. Through a series of examinations and review of their medical records, some related underlying lesion were identified.

Case Studies: We report three cases that met the above criteria including: 1) brain tumor (311395-1); 2) epilepsy (2537552-0); and 3) alcoholic cirrhosis of the liver (736597-4). All of the patients suffered from trauma repeatedly (at least five times in one year, as chart record) during their daily work.

Discussion: Due to lack of insight and treatment, these patients were highly vulnerable to accidents in their daily work. Further consultations of each related special ward including social worker was arranged. Besides, their families were notified to take care of the patient, because their underlying disease increased the risk of recurrent trauma.

Conclusion: The result emphasizes the importance to evaluate trauma patients thoroughly, from head-to-heel and for previous problems before they are discharge from Emergency Department. Recurrent trauma could be prevented if the underlying factors could be identified and controlled effectively.

Keywords: assessments; coexisting diseases; emergency department; evaluation; records, medical; recurrent traumatic injuries; serial examinations; trauma

General Session VII

Preparedness for Disaster-II

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Chair: Zhang Hong-Qi, Ikubiro Sakata

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Changes in the Disaster Medical System in Korea — The Changes after the Recent Major Urban Disasters

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The rapid industrialization of Korea in the recent years has introduced high-rise, residential buildings and mass transportation systems, which gave rise to the possibility of large-scale, man-made disasters. In actuality, a number of such disasters already have occurred, particularly in large urban areas, causing massive numbers of human casualties. As a result, the existing disaster management plan in Korea has been modified considerably. This paper will describe large-scale disasters in metropolitan areas that involved human casualties and the changes in the disaster plans of Korea that resulted.

The existing disaster plans allocated jurisdiction for disaster management to various organizations or administrative authorities. The lack of coordination in the managing authorities adversely affected the efforts for rescue and treatment of the injured persons, and created obstacles for timely disaster reports and the adoption of efficient disaster management measures.

Under the revised disaster management plan, admin-

istrative authorities are given jurisdiction over disaster management. A disaster management center ("Disaster Center") is to be established directly under the control of the central government, and is empowered to declare a disaster area. Disaster reports are to be made only to fire stations, so that the reporting can be channeled through a uniform system. An emergency rescue headquarters is to be established under the direct control of the head of the local government. The Disaster Center is responsible for disaster management, rescue, and compensation, while the Disaster Prevention Committee is responsible for providing administrative assistance and other professional advice. The new plan mandates compulsory disaster prevention drills at least twice each year. Hopefully, the new plan will prove to be adequate for prevention and management of urban disasters in the future; however, it will be also necessary for each urban area to prepare a disaster management program that addresses problems that are uniquely its own.

Table 1—Recent urban disasters in Korea

Disaster	Date (d/m/y)	Casualties Dead Injured	Authority with Jurisdiction
Jupo Train Derailment	28/03/93	78 128	Train and Rail Authority
Airline Accident	26/07/93	66 44	Airline company
Ferry Capsize	10/10/93	292 67	Local Organizations
Collapse of Sungsoo Bridge	21/10/94	48 17	Local Organizations
Fire on Vessel	24/10/94	29 30	Local Organizations
Explosion of City Gas Tank	07/12/94	4 73	Korea Gas Safety Authority
Gas Explosion in Subway Construction Site	28//04/95	101 201	Korea Gas Safety Authority
Collapse of Sampoong Department Store	29/06/95	501 932	Local Organizations, Ministry of Construction and Transportation
Fire at a Technology School	21/08/95	37 16	Local Organizations

Keywords: disaster; disaster center; disaster medical system; disaster management plan; industrialization; jurisdictions; metropolitan areas; multicase incident; Korea; planning; plans; preparedness; responsibilities

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Survey of State Level Catastrophic Casualty Management Plans in the United States of America

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Introduction: In the United States, the Federal Government legislates that each of the 50 State Governments have an emergency operation plan that includes an emergency health and medical component. It is not known to what extent these emergency health and medical plans are designed to manage large numbers of critically-injured casualties following a catastrophic event. In this survey, we evaluated state level catastrophic casualty plans according to minimal criteria.

Methods: A telephone survey of State Emergency Med-