

Milk Drop (Tipat Halav) Nurses Preparedness for Coping with Continuous War and Terrorism

Marc Gelkopf;¹ Rony Berger²

1. Department of Community Mental Health, Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences, University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel
2. NATAL—The Israel Trauma Center for Victims of Terror and War, Ben Gurion University, Israel

Introduction: Research has suggested infants were at risk for the development of post-traumatic symptomatology in situations of major disaster and in the context of the ongoing, violent Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Research also has shown that caretaker stress was directly related to infant stress. Milk drop nurses (MDN) are among the first professionals that observe, diagnose, and provide psychosocial information and direct infants and their mothers for further medical treatment after birth. In times of war and terrorism, it is imperative that MDNs have adequate knowledge to help parents cope with the situation, strengthen their resilience, impart soothing and modulation parental skills for their infants, and direct mothers and infants to mental health treatment when needed. Furthermore, it is important to teach MDN self-soothing and stress management strategies that will enhance their ability to better cope with stressful and even traumatic situations.

Methods: This study consisted of a randomly controlled study assessing a 12-session, manualized intervention aimed at training MDNs to identify infants and parents at risk for traumatic reactions, help parents cope with disaster-related situations, develop work-related self-efficacy, and reduce the risk of secondary traumatization. Eighty MDNs (42 study and 38 waiting list) were assessed, before and three months after the intervention on measures of secondary traumatization, work burnout, work-related self-efficacy, hope, sense of control, and self appraisal.

Results: Using repeated measure ANOVA, a significant and positive impact of group x time on all assessed measures was found.

Conclusions: Imparting adequate training to MDNs is an effective way to improve work efficacy, strengthen resilience, and protect against secondary traumatization. Although not assessed in this study, such training might strengthen the resilience of parents and their newly born infants in cases of war and terror.

Keywords: infants; Milk Drop Nurses; parents; terrorism; training; trauma

Prehosp Disaster Med

Palliative Care Considerations in Mass-Casualty Events with Scarce Resources

Anne M. Wilkinson, PhD; Marianne Matzo, PhD, RN; Joanne Lynn, MD; Maria Gatto, RN; Sally Phillips

Edith Cowan University, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Postgraduate Medicine, Perth, Australia

Catastrophic mass-casualty events (MCEs), such as pandemic influenza outbreaks or large-scale, terrorism-related events, could yield thousands of victims whose needs would overwhelm local and regional healthcare systems, personnel, and resources. Such conditions would require the

deployment of scarce resources in a manner different from the more common single-event disaster. The purpose of this presentation is to offer an introduction to the topic of palliative care during a MCE and to review the major findings for a federally funded planning guide that examined palliative care issues associated with providing medical care during MCEs, when resources are scarce. The focus of this presentation is on the role of palliative care in the support of individuals not expected to survive and recommendations of specific actions for a coordinated disaster response plan. Semi-structured telephone discussions with disaster management experts and an expert group meeting identified issues, roles, responsibilities, procedures, and resources offering benefits of integrating palliative care into disaster planning and response. The investigations identified five domains of concern, along with guidance: (1) the role of palliative care in a MCE with resulting scarce resources; (2) the triage and ensuing treatment decisions for those “likely to die”; (3) the critical palliative care services to provide, along with the personnel and settings; (4) the pragmatic plans needed for ensuring training, supplies, and organizational or jurisdictional arrangements; and (5) unusual issues affecting palliative care under MCE scenarios. Palliative care minimizes the suffering of those who die, ensures comfort, addresses the needs of those who will not survive, and may also free up resources to optimize survival of others. Planning to provide palliative care during MCEs should be part of the current state and local disaster planning/training guidelines, protocols, and activities.

Keywords: mass-casualty incident; palliative care; scarce resources
Prehosp Disaster Med

Emergency Preparedness of Local Authorities: General Model and the Israeli Case

Alex Altschuler

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel

Introduction: While wars have not been rare in Israeli history and its immediate past, the massive involvement of the civil population and its local administrations in war-caused disaster is a relatively new experience. To meet the need for theoretical models for disaster research and valid empirical tools for examination of emergency preparedness for war-caused disaster, the current study examined emergency preparedness of local authorities throughout Israel for this kind of disaster and the factors that may help to predict the level of preparedness.

Methods: A structured questionnaire developed specifically for this study included 74 items, divided into nine sub-questionnaires that were used for measurement of all of the research variables. The dependent variable—preparedness level—was constructed on the basis of the official obligatory requirements of the Home Front Command and the Union of Local Authorities in Israel. The questionnaires were distributed in May–July 2008 among 177 local authorities’ chief emergency managers throughout Israel (87.6% of the total population of these position holders in Israel, but not of the total number of local authorities, since not all of them have a professional emergency manager),