

An Example of a Field Exercise with an Independent Evaluation System

M. Eryilmaz,¹ M. Bilgitekin,² N. Erdogan,³ D.K. Biyikli,⁴ H. Bogaz,³ S. Kiliç,⁵ M. Durusu⁶

1. Gulham Military Medical Academy, Ankara, Turkey
2. Kadikoy Municipality, Istanbul, Turkey
3. Turkish Journal of Disaster Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey
4. Kocaeli University, Istanbul, Turkey
5. Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey
6. Gulhane Military Medical Academy, Ankara, Turkey

Medical field exercises are important ways to practice theory and take corrective measures from the lessons learned of the exercise. To accomplish this, independent evaluators are critical. "The National Medical Rescue Team (UMKE) of Turkey II. National Training and Exercise Camp" was an example of a field exercise using an independent evaluation system. The event took place in Kayseri, Turkey between 15 and 18 August 2006. Five hundred fifty UMKE members from 11 cities and North Cyprus UMKE team participated in the event. An independent evaluation committee composed of three members from different fields of expertise observed and evaluated the exercise using an evaluation form. The form includes a total of 90 questions in three areas: (1) preparedness before the exercise; and (2) actions taken during the exercise and the triage. "Yes", "No, and "I do not know" were the response choices for each item. For "Yes" and "No" answers, a Likert-type instrument with five response alternatives was developed. There was also space for any comments regarding each item. Out of 90 evaluations, all evaluators gave seven negative, 59 positive and 24 not known comments. The results of the evaluation showed that the triage success level of UMKE teams was high whereas there is need to improve the training system.

Keywords: evaluation system; field exercise; National Medical Rescue Team; Turkey

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START Triage Exercise at the Gulhane Military Medical Academy, Turkey 2005

M. Eryilmaz,¹ M. Durusu,¹ M. Topuzlar,¹ B. Baykal,² O. Mentesh,¹ K. Oner¹

1. Gulhane Military Medical Academy, Ankara, Turkey
2. Suleyman Demirel University, Isparta, Turkey

Various triage systems have been developed all over the world. The objective of this study was to evaluate the success and experiences of health personnel as to the method of 'Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment'(START) that was practiced during the Gulhane Military Medical Academy Hospital Disaster Plan Exercise 2005. A total of 91 cases whose triage category was pre-determined, participated in the study. Each part according to the trauma scenario they were provided. Triage teams, while evaluating the cases, looked at brief the information written on the cards hung around the patients' necks that provided ventilatory rate, pulse rate and clinical status. They examined the make-up of each of the mock patients. Results of the triage performed in the field and in the hospital were compared

and the applicability of the START method was discussed. The scenario was prepared with 11 black, 21 red, 25 yellow, and 34 green victims. The hospital triage team designated them as 13 black, 26 red, 26 yellow, 26 green. Some additional cases were triaged into a higher category. It was noted that the dramatic appearances of the patients resulted in triage errors. It was concluded that theoretical training might be inadequate for correct triage practices during mass-casualty situations and they should be supported and developed using future practical exercises.

Keywords: accuracy; exercise; START; training; triage

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Poster Presentations—Theme 2: Education

(3) Effect of Prehospital Trauma Life Support Course on Emergency Medicine Technician's Knowledge in Iran

A. Nejati,¹ R. Shariat Mohareri,¹ A. Setaiesh,² N. Isavi¹

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

Objectives: The objective of this study was to determine the effectiveness of a prehospital trauma life support (PHTLS) course for emergency medicine technicians in Tehran (capital of Iran). The knowledge of 240 technicians was assessed before and three months after the course.

Methods: All of the technicians of the Tehran Emergency Medicine Service participated in the four-day PHTLS course taught by two emergency physicians, a surgeon, and an anaesthesiologist. A standardized questionnaire with 40 questions was administered prior to the course. Three months after the course was completed, another multiple-choice questionnaire that consisted of 40 questions of the same level of difficulty as did the first examination was administered.

Results: All of the 240 technicians were male with a mean value of their ages of 30.1 ±5.1 (SD) years old. The mean pre-course questionnaire score was 17.1 ±3.7 and conversely related to mean age of the technicians. The highest score attained was 26. The mean value for the post-course score was 28.3 ±4.3, and the highest score was 35.

Conclusions: The PHTLS course is an effective strategy to improve the performance of the EMS technicians. However, it is recommended that their trauma management skills and outcomes (patient mortality and morbidity) be evaluated.

Keywords: effectiveness; emergency medical services; Iran; knowledge; Prehospital Trauma Life Support Course; technicians

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(4) Organizing Activities of Undergraduates in Nigerian Universities and Polytechnical School toward the Prevention of Road Traffic Crashes

M. Kassim,¹ A. Osaguona²

1. School of Part-Time Studies, Auchi, Edo State Nigeria
2. Faculty of Dentistry, University of Benin, Benin City, Edo State Nigeria

Nigeria is classified among the least motorized nations in the world. Ironically, there is an unprecedented rise in mor-