

insurance, the paid for medical care from the private sector individuals demonstrates a higher level of efficiency.

Keywords: ambulance; efficiency; public sector; private sector; Romania

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(155) Suicide Attempts and Prehospital Medicine

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Introduction: Prehospital personnel often confront suicide. The aim of this study was to examine the epidemiological characteristics of the patients who committed suicide and the emergency management of the patients.

Methods: A total of 108 suicide cases were examined retrospectively. The mean value for the age of the patients were 36.7 years; 52 of the victims (48%) were female.

Results: The majority of the patients (72 cases), chose to attempt suicide by poisoning themselves with drugs or chemicals. Falling from heights represented the second most common method of committing suicide (15 cases). Five victims hung themselves, and five attempted suicide by self-inflicted stab wounds to the chest, neck, and other major vascular structures. The rest of the victims chose drowning and gunshot to commit suicide. All of the hanged victims were dead when the emergency personnel arrived. A total of 55 victims reported a history of previous suicide attempts; 32 of the victims had psychotic disorders.

Conclusions: Supportive care remains the primary management for most poisoning victims. All of the hanging victims were dead by the time the prehospital team arrived. Among the suicide victims, interpersonal relationship disorders seemed to be more frequent.

Keywords: attempted suicide; emergency; epidemiology; prehospital; suicide

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(156) Near Drowning and Prehospital Medicine

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Introduction: In Greece, near drowning is a common accident during the summer. Children and the elderly are more susceptible to drowning. Prehospital physicians should be prepared to treat victims of near drowning, especially in areas near the sea. The purpose of this study was to examine the epidemiology; characteristics, clinical presentation, and emergency management of near-drowning victims.

Methods: A total of 25 cases of near drowning were analyzed retrospectively.

Results: Among the near-drowning victims, there were three children with a mean value of the ages of 6.3 years. The mean value of the age of the adult patients was 64.6 ±9.80 years. There were 10 men and 15 women. All of the cases occurred in salt water during the summer months.

Profound hypothermia was not detected. All of the cases demonstrated mild or severe respiratory insufficiency. Tracheal intubation was required for four cases during the prehospital phase. Pre-existing medical illnesses were detected in 19 cases. Eight patients had previously consumed food and drinks. A total of 20 patients were stuporous, four patients were awake and alert, and four patients were comatose. Pulmonary edema was detected in six patients. Cardiac abnormalities were detected in 15 patients.

Conclusions: There were two age-peaks for the near drowning victims; children and the elderly. The majority of the near-drowning patients were elderly with underlying disease. Common findings were tachypnea and tachycardia. Tracheal intubation may be required during the transportation of the patient to the hospital.

Keywords: children; elderly; emergency; Greece; near drowning; presentation

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(157) Complicated Myocardial Infarction in Prehospital Medicine

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Introduction: Cardiac arrhythmias, left ventricular dysfunction, cardiogenic shock, and thromboembolism represent the main complications of myocardial infarction (MI) that may be confronted by a physician in prehospital medicine. The purpose of this study was to examine the frequency and the kind and the severity of complications among patients with MI during the prehospital phase of their management.

Methods: The medical records of 285 patients with suspected MI were examined retrospectively. All the patients enrolled in the registry had electrocardiographic (ECG) changes consistent with acute ischemia. The patients' demographic and medical history characteristics, the frequency and the kind of complications, and the emergency management were examined.

Results: A total of 62 patients with suspected MI presented complications during the prehospital phase. Of these, 38 were male (61.3%) and the mean age of the patients was 62 ±7.9 years. Arrhythmic episodes were detected in 45 patients (72.6%). There were 17 cases of supraventricular tachyarrhythmias (27.4%), 15 cases (24.2%) of ventricular tachyarrhythmias (ventricular premature beats were included), and 13 cases of bradyarrhythmias and conduction disturbances (20.9%). Electrical cardioversion was required in six cases (9.7%). Twelve patients (19.47%) presented congestive heart failure resulting from systolic dysfunction and four patients (6.4%) presented cardiogenic shock, and one patient brain thromboembolism.

Conclusions: Arrhythmias represent the most important complication during the acute MI. During the prehospital phase, ventricular tachycardia and fibrillation probably account for the majority of sudden deaths. The physician of