

Patient Management Symposium in Emergency Medicine at North Cyprus Emergency Medicine Days

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Abstract

The Patient Management Symposium in Emergency Medicine in North Cyprus Emergency Medicine Days was carried out between February 28 and March 1, 2014 at Lefkoşa, TRNC. Fifteen academicians carried out the Emergency Medicine Patient Management Symposium with 17 presentations at 7 different panels. Besides physicians, nurses, paramedics working in the 112 emergency health care services, emergency services and in the other clinics of the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus Ministry (TRNC) of Health, health professionals working in the emergency services and intensive care units of Near East University (NEU) hospital and other private facilities and NEU School of Medicine, Nursing Department of Faculty of Health Sciences and students of the Paramedic Program of Vocational School of Health and students of the other universities attended the symposium. The number of participants was 440, and it caught more attention than expected. Holding the organization of Patient Management in Emergency Medicine Symposium under the umbrella of Northern Cyprus Emergency Medicine Days has added strength and desire to the NEU School of Medicine Emergency Medicine Department and EPAT for other planned organizations.

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Key words: Emergency medicine, symposium, North Cyprus

Introduction

The Patient Management Symposium in Emergency Medicine at North Cyprus Emergency Medicine Days was carried out between February 28 and March 1, 2014 at Near East University (NEU) Library Hall 4. The symposium, which was carried out with the collaboration of the School of Medicine of NEU and Emergency Physicians' Association of Turkey (EPAT) within the frame of the 25th Foundation Anniversary of NEU, was met and followed with great interest.

Emergency Medicine Services in RTNC

It has been understood from the announcement archives of the ministry that one of the most important agenda items of the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus (TRNC) Ministry of Health in recent months is emergency services and emergency health services. In TRNC, the phone number of public emergency health services is 112. (1) Numbers that belong to private institutions' ambulance services are used, as well.

The "Command Control Center" within Dr. Burhanettin Nalbantoğlu (DBN) State Hospital receives the incoming calls and arranges ambulance services. Emergency medicine services are provided at the DBN, Famagusta, Dr. Akçiçek, and Cengiz Topel State hospitals. (1) DBN State Hospital serves as a reference accepting main service point. There is only one emergency medicine specialist working within the emergency service. Other than this, several emergency service units belonging to several private institutions provide service within the island, too.

In TRNC, when the admissions to state hospitals' polyclinics, emergency services, and primary health service units (health centers) between the years 2006-2011 were evaluated, the number of patients who applied to polyclinics was 50% of all admissions, while this rate has been reported as 30% for emergency services and 20% for basic health services. While the number of emergency service admissions was 180,631 in 2006, this number was 186,085 in 2011. (2)

Of the two schools of medicine in TRNC, NEU Hospital is the only facility giving a 3th level care services. Emergency service and ambu-

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lance services are provided in the Emergency Medicine Department, which was established a short time ago within the NEU School of Medicine. An assistant professor and a specialist provide service in the field of emergency medicine.

It has been reported that training programs for continuous improvement of the emergency staff in terms of emergency care are absent. (2) It is understood that there is need for a fresh start and an update in the field of emergency medicine, starting from basic life support information of the website of the TRNC Ministry of Health. (1)

Objectives and Content

The Near East University School of Medicine Emergency Medicine Department aims to update the knowledge, to adopt emergency medicine approaches, and to provide a common language among emergency health care professionals working in pre-hospital and emergency services. By organizing symposiums for this purpose, it aims to share experiences and knowledge between academicians and experts making a career in the field of emergency medicine who have contributed to the establishment and development of emergency medicine in Turkey and other countries by organizing courses and to improve the knowledge and skills of emergency health professionals by certified trainings. These activities are an opportunity that allows them to come together and debate and dispute the issues of emergency health care professionals.

Northern Cyprus Emergency Medicine Days conducted the first training activity with the 'Emergency Medicine Patient Management Symposium.' Besides physicians, nurses, paramedics working in the 112 emergency health care services, emergency services and in the other clinics of the TRNC Ministry of Health, health professionals working in the emergency services and intensive care units of NEU hospital and other private facilities and NEU School of Medicine, Nursing Department of Faculty of Health Sciences and students of the Paramedic Program of Vocational School of Health and students of the other universities attended to the symposium. The number of participants was 440, and it caught more attention than expected.

Fifteen academicians carried out Emergency Medicine Patient Management Symposium with 17 presentations at 7 different panels. Following the opening ceremony program, a description of emergency medicine, its development in Turkey, and the contributions of EPAT to them were described in the first panel. In the second panel, difficult circumstances and diagnoses within emergency care, principles of diagnostic tests, and consultation requests were discussed. In the electrocardiogram (ECG) panel that was explained with case reports, the principals of ECG interpretation were followed with intense interest. In the fourth panel, cardiac protocols, hypertensive emergencies, and current approaches to stroke were summarized. In the first panel of the second day, dyspnea, chest pain, and abdominal pain, which are common symptoms encountered in the emergency service, and the principals of airway management were discussed. In the panel in which the management of shock was summarized, the management of multi-traumatic patients and patients with gastrointestinal bleeding was also discussed more in detail. Although it was the last panel of the second day, there was crowded participation, and seizures, headache, and coma management in the concept of the neurologic emergencies were discussed.

Feedbacks from Participants

All feedback from the participants about the symposium included acknowledgements to NEU, EPAT, our distinguished profes-

sors, and organizing committee. ('Listening to the experiences of years which was squeezed into two days was beneficial and interesting'... dedication and teaching during the symposium by all the trainers about what should we know and the most important points we should learn ...) It has been reported that the professors giving the presentations were savant to their subjects; the presentation styles and use of time were in the top level. ('All the topics discussed in the symposium were presented fluently, clearly and understandably.' 'In this symposium I never got bored and I listened with great pleasure to the end of the panel.' 'Presentations were prepared with great care.' 'It was a symposium fully thought out very nicely, educational and helpful.' 'Fully equipped trainers ... Full satisfaction...'). It is our wish to continue similar activities and organization of courses in TRNC. ('We want a repeat of the ECG training.' 'I wish you to organize applied courses.') It has been written that the knowledge was updated, wrong knowledge was corrected, and new knowledge was obtained. ('I saw that some of what I know to be true was false.'...I think I obtained a lot of knowledge.'...It is an effective and memorable event which should be attended by all the emergency teams...') It has been requested that since nurses are at the forefront of emergency care in TRNC, emergency nursing issues should be discussed, and even a separate symposium should be organized. ('We are waiting with longing for your Emergency Service Nursing presentations.') It has been quoted that discussing and emphasizing the team approach in emergency service are needed. It has been said that the symposium improved the interest in emergency medicine and emergency service. ('... my interest in emergency and first aid increased more with this symposium.' 'To make our preference in favor of emergency during our work life this and similar symposiums will be effective...'). A participant has summarized the aim of the symposium as: 'Life is practice, decision and action. Actions are performed in the field.'

Of course, there were criticisms and advice in those written. For the recommendations, the responsibilities of the physician, nurse, and paramedic should be specified separately, pediatric emergency issues should be discussed, servings should be increased, improvement of registration and documentation processes, and better announcements of the symposium were written down.

The first night of the symposium was colored with a gala dinner that was prepared for our guests from Turkey to taste North Cyprian cuisine. Following the symposium, we had the chance to transfer the recent history of Cyprus with a tour including Lefkoşa and Girne to our guests and to throw away our tiredness in the famous harbor of Girne.

Conclusion

Holding the organization of the Patient Management in Emergency Medicine Symposium under the umbrella of Northern Cyprus Emergency Medicine Days has added strength and desire to the NEU School of Medicine Emergency Medicine Department and EPAT for other planned organizations. This strength and collaboration will continue to contribute to the development of emergency medicine in TRNC. The next symposium is considered to be held in the areas of trauma and emergency nursing.

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