for further investigation of optimal triage and continuous quality improvement in trauma care.

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The Role of Volunteers During the Golden Hours After the 2023 Türkiye Earthquake

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Summary: The two major earthquakes on February 6, 2023, affected 11 provinces and were some of the most devastating disasters experienced by Türkiye. The golden hours, the first 72 hours of the earthquake, were of critical importance for saving lives, search and rescue efforts, and meeting the basic needs of the survivors. Many difficulties were experienced during these golden hours, which led to an increase in the loss of life and growing grievances.
Major Challenges:

- Lack of coordination led to delays, chaos, and anger.
- Transportation problems made it difficult for search and rescue teams and aid trucks.
- Communication disruption made coordination difficult.
- Inadequate shelter and hygiene increased the load on the health system.
- Inadequate aid
- Season

Promising Efforts Despite Challenges:

Despite all these difficulties, search and rescue teams, non-governmental organizations, and volunteers worked with great devotion during the golden hours of the earthquake and saved many lives.

The Kahramanmaraş Earthquake on February 6, 2023, was one of the most devastating disasters in Türkiye's history. The system may fail, but the people heal from their wounds. Disaster Medicine leaders can lead the society in preparedness, where volunteers can receive first-aid and light search and rescue training to save lives during the critical "golden hours" of disaster management. The lessons learned from this earthquake can serve as a guide for the future.

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The New Protocol: Bringing the Hospital to the Scene

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Summary: On October 4th, 2024, the New Taipei City Fire Department received a call about a middle-aged man trapped under a large stone weighing approximately 2 tons following a landslide. The landslide was triggered by heavy rains from Typhoon Krathon, which struck Taiwan. The local fire squad was initially dispatched to free the man, but was unsuccessful. As time passed, firefighters grew increasingly concerned about the man's medical condition due to prolonged entrapment.

"Special Medical Response unit" was then activated, implementing a new protocol developed by the New Taipei City Fire Department. This protocol involves collaboration between trained medical professionals and firefighters to provide advanced medical support during complex rescues. A key feature is the deployment of a specialized medical team directly to the scene, including surgeons, emergency physicians, nurses, and paramedics. Aside from standard prehospital management, this team can deliver on-site advanced medical care, such as administering blood transfusions and managing pain with controlled medications. In extreme cases, they are also trained to perform field amputations to expedite evacuation. This two-tier response involves dispatching an ambulance to transport the medical team, while a mobile surgical truck collects medications and blood products from a contracted hospital before heading to the site as quickly as possible.

In this particular case, upon arrival, the medical team administered tranexamic acid to control bleeding and managed the patient's pain with tramadol. They also coordinated with the receiving hospital to prepare the trauma team in advance. The team monitored the patient's condition throughout the rescue, and once successfully evacuated, he was transported to a level-one trauma center for further treatment. The patient was later diagnosed with crush injuries and rhabdomyolysis. This case highlights the critical role of advanced emergency protocols in enhancing patient outcomes during complex rescue operations.

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Retrospective Analysis of the Emergency Medical Team (EMT) Dispatched by the Accident and Emergency Department (A&E) at Tuen Mun Hospital

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Summary: Prehospital emergency care, a subspecialty of Emergency Medicine, is primarily provided by the Ambulance Command of the Fire Service Department in Hong Kong. The Government Flying Service also provides emergency care in Hong Kong's airspace and a significant portion of the South China Sea. As part of the Hospital Authority Accident & Emergency Department response, Medical Control Officers (MCOs) and Emergency Medical Team (EMT) are dispatched to disaster scenes to provide on-site triage, emergency stabilization treatment, and advice on orderly diversions to hospitals.

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