

Emergency Medicine in Iran

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Iran

- Surface area=1,648,195 square kilometer
- Population= 70,000,000
- Life expectancy:
male=69 years
female=72 years
- Age structure:
0-14 years:21%
15-64 years:72%
65+ years:7%

Iran (characteristics relevant to EM)

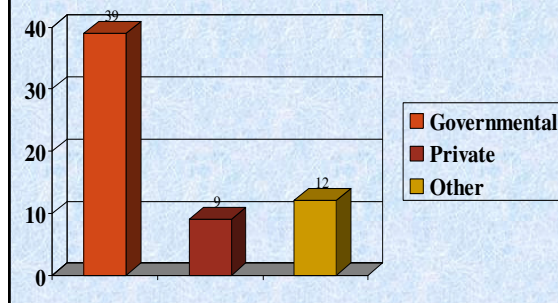
- Disaster-prone:
Earthquakes
Flooding
War
Terrorist acts
- Rapid urbanization
- High rates of traffic accidents: 26000 deaths, 120,000 injuries

General Medical Education in Iran

- 7 Yr program (including 1.5Yr internship)
- Graduates (GPs) have the license to work
- Approximately 4000 GPs are graduated eachYr
- There are about 100.000 physicians practicing in Iran
- Most of the GPs are primary care provider
- Most of the EDs in non-teaching hospitals are staffed by GPS

Medical Schools

(60 Universities)



Specialty Training in Iran

- 3 to 5 yr program (depending on the specialty)
- There are 27 different specialties and 17 subspecialties available
- GPs compete through national residency matching examinations to receive a residency position (success rate=10%)
- The Secretariat of Iranian Council for Graduate Medical Education (ICGME) is responsible for accreditation of training centers and holding annual residency promotion and board exams
- All specialty & subspecialty programs have board exams

Emergency Medicine in Iran (pre-hospital)

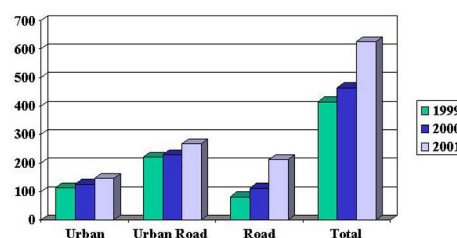
- Founded in 1976
- Initial patient stabilization & quick transport to hospital-based emergency facilities are primary function of EMS
- Dispatch centers receive the calls (115)
- Not all the calls are responded by dispatching ambulances
- BLS ambulances are staffed by 2 EMTs or nurses
- EMS personnel have access to on-line medical direction
- They can use limited number of drugs and perform intubation but normally do not have defibrillators

Emergency Medicine in Iran (pre-hospital)

- ACLS ambulances are staffed by 1 physician, 1 nurse or EMT
- Have been equipped by defibrillators, but the numbers are inadequate



EMS Stations



Emergency Medicine in Iran (pre-hospital)

- Air ambulances have been operational since 1999
- Air ambulances are staffed by 1 physician, 1 nurse and 1 EMT



Emergency Medicine in Iran (hospital)

- EDs are staffed by GPs or Medicine or surgical residents
- EDs have three basic functions:
 - They receive all the patients of EMS
 - They are the sites for definite care to emergency patients
 - They are the sites for disposition of the patients to the floors
- EM in Iran is largely hospital-based

EM Specialty Development in Iran

- Rapid urbanization, population aging and higher expectations from health system, and large-scale natural disasters all are real challenging areas in Iran
- In 1997 improving the emergency care took a high priority in health care programs
- May 2001: EM recognized as the 24th specialty by the council for development of universities
- Oct 2001: First EM residency program started
- May 2002: Board committee of EM was established

EM Specialty Development in Iran (cont'd)

- In 2004 the first annual EM national congress was hold and then repeated annually
- In 2005 the Iranian Society of Emergency Medicine (ISEM) was established

The current status of EM in Iran

- EM is a recognized independent specialty in Iran
- Nine active residency training program active at present
- At least 5 other universities have officially applied to ICGME and pending accreditation
- So far 70 board-certified EM specialists have been trained, 150 residents are being trained and 110 applicants will be recruited this year

Emergency Department System Development

- Institution of 24 hr coverage with attending physicians
- Establishment of triage system
- Initial handling of patients by ED staff
- ED is responsible for patient stabilization
- Emergency physician then may refer, consult or discharge or admit the patient