Do Modern Conflicts Create Different Medical Needs?  

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**Objective:** Management of combat and civilian casualties during military conflicts creates different medical needs. This study analyzed: (1) type of injuries and medical services utilized by military casualties in three conflicts; and (2) the medical needs of military and civilian casualties from the 2nd Lebanon War.

**Methods:** Military casualties from three conflicts and military and civilian casualties from the 2nd Lebanon War were analyzed. Casualties were compared in relation to type of injury, length-of-stay (LOS), and operating room utilization (ORU).

**Results:** The rate of orthopedic injuries and casualties requiring treatment in the intensive care units (ICUs) remained fairly constant. Hospital LOS for general surgery, neurosurgery, thoracic surgery, and otolaryngology patients decreased, while LOS in the ICU increased over the three conflicts. Soldiers tended to have a higher percentage of orthopedic injuries. The LOS for both populations was similar. More civilian casualties required admission to the ICU and the LOS was lower compared to soldiers. The type of injuries sustained differed significantly for the two groups ($\chi^2 = 13.8, df = 4, p < 0.008$). Civilian ORU was higher for orthopedic and otolaryngological procedures, and the rate of general surgery ORU decreased.

**Conclusions:** The LOS possibly decreased due to improved evacuation facilities and diagnostic and therapeutic techniques. The exception was for burn casualties who, as a result of improved evacuation procedures, had an increased chance of survival.

Civilians are less protected during military conflicts, and therefore, are more susceptible to certain kinds of injuries. Civilian and military medical needs differed. Civilians had a higher morbidity than soldiers, which resulted in an increased need for treatment in the ICU.

**Keywords:** civilian; conflict; injury; medical needs; military

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**Prehospital Management of Emergencies and Mass-Casualty Events**

**Airmedical Evacuation during a Mass-Casuality Incident in a Remote Location**  

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**Introduction:** On 16 December 2008, a tourist bus crashed near the city of Eilat, causing 53 casualties. Due to the geographical distance, airmedical evacuation was the major means of evacuation to Level-One Trauma Centers.