Prevalence and Risk Factors for Workplace Violence in the Ambulance Service

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Introduction: Workplace violence within the ambulance service is a serious problem. A prevalence of up to 8.5% of all ambulance missions has previously been reported. Prior research used a retrospective design and the knowledge of risk factors for workplace violence is weak. Therefore, the aim of the current study was to measure the prevalence of workplace violence within the ambulance service in a Swedish region.

Method: This was a prospective cohort study using data from all ambulance missions in a region in Sweden during one year. The data was analyzed with descriptive and analytic statistics using SPSS.

Results: Data was collected from 28,648 ambulance missions. A total of 209 unique workplace violence incidents were reported, corresponding to a prevalence of 0.7%. Seventy-three of all incidents reported physical violence and 161 verbal threats, where some of the incidents included both physical and verbal violence. The most common risk factors for workplace violence were: the perpetrator was under the influence of alcohol or drugs (70.5%), mental illness (60.5%) and communication problems (15.3%). The perpetrator was most often a man (n=68%) between 18 and 29 years of age. Co-variation between the risk factors was high. No significant differences in the occurrence of workplace violence could be seen in relation to time of the year, weekday, or time of day.

Conclusion: The prevalence of workplace violence was one of the lowest reported. An understanding of risk factors could be used within the ambulance service and dispatch centers to identify situations with an increased risk of workplace violence and mitigate the risk of such incidents.

Survey on Applications of Emergency Medical Drones

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Introduction: Traditionally, helicopters or special types of airplanes have been used to transport emergency patients when an aeromedical transport is necessary. However, despite its excellent utility, the cost of each flight is relatively expensive and has many limitations. So as an alternative to traditional aircrafts, there has been a movement to overcome the limitations of traditional air transport through the development and application of emergency medical drones. In this study, practical applications of emergency medical drones were investigated.

Method: As a first step, through literature and internet searches, the current state of development, field of use, results, and problems of emergency medical drones were investigated. Based on this first investigation, a second Delphi survey of...