Emergency Medicine Residents' Attitudes Towards Chemical/Biological/Nuclear Accidents: Education and Knowledge of Casualty Management

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Emergency medicine residents lack crucial knowledge necessary to adequately manage chemical, biological, and nuclear casualties, but appreciate the need for this training during their residency. We sought to survey emergency medicine residents' basic knowledge in chemical, biological, and nuclear casualty management. In addition, we gathered information on emergency medicine residents' attitudes concerning training in the field of chemical/biological/nuclear terrorism, in order to standardize the mechanism by which the training is executed. We feel that a comprehensive form of teaching encompassing didactic lectures, as well as practical exercises, will best facilitate education in this emerging field.

Keywords: accidents; attitudes; casualties; emergency medicine; residency training; terrorism; weapons of mass destruction