

EDITORIAL

FUTURE AND PROSPECTS OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE IN BAHRAIN

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Emergency medicine is a specialty which has not been embraced in the Arab world as it is viewed as specialty without any sort of prestige to the doctor; Emergency physicians are viewed as floor doctors. Therefore, emergency medicine has not been recognized and appreciated in the Arab world.

Emergency Service has been one of the major health providers for the people of the kingdom of Bahrain since a long time, and up to this very moment

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Communicating with different well known international emergency societies and bodies around the world, such as the American college of emergency physicians, Canadian Association of Emergency...etc is mandatory in dealing with difficult clinical problems.

This paper discusses the prospects and methods by which emergency health care can be improved.

Emergency medicine is a relatively new specialty in the Middle East and Arab world. That is why this service deserves more respect and appreciation from the administration and the public as well.

Establishing EM residency program is an important step in dealing with the daily clinical problems and improving the services. There is a great opportunity for more international collaboration as the residency program develop and expand.

Turkey was the first country in the region to establish EM residency program in 1994, Jordan started two residency programs, and several other countries started these programs in an early stage of development including Israel, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Syria The Kingdom of Bahrain started the EM program four years ago, and most of the residents attended the first part of the Arab board examination of Emergency medicine in November 2002.

The core success of this program lies in the international collaboration with the well known societies in the world to train our residents on the recent trends in management of emergency cases, this will lead to a greater public confidence in the quality and delivery of emergency care in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

All emergency doctors should be entitled for a risk allowance in view of their risky and demanding job; this definitely will boost the morals of

the doctors and create a healthy atmosphere of appreciation leading to more dedicated patient care.

The weekly educational activities should be upgraded to address the recent advances of emergency medicine not just a clinical topic in a traditional way. It should include the current concepts in dealing with different problems in emergency medicine, stressing on research, which is the main pillar in developing and improving the emergency service in Bahrain. Training research oriented doctors is mandatory. This can be initiated through regular participation in international courses and conferences. Therefore, research publication should be linked to promotion.

Team spirit is an important factor among emergency medical staff, because emergency care of a critically injured patient is not a one man show, it is team approach. Sharing and exchanging opinions in terms of clinical approach and management of patients will lead to a much better care for the patient.

The attitude problem facing emergency physicians in Bahrain has to be addressed.

Some of our colleagues from other specialties consider emergency physicians as referral doctors. This is against rational thinking and a barrier against further progress in emergency care.

The process of auditing the performance in the emergency department is not yet established on professional basis by professional team. For

instance morbidity and mortality meeting are not sufficient in terms of frequency and not enough to discuss such interesting cases. The meeting should be conducted professionally in order to progress in learning process.

Continuous quality improvement (CQI) can be an effective tool for improving health care delivery. Implementation of (CQI) requires a commitment to change, with the backing of the hospital administration.

Team spirit, proper CQI, constructive auditing, well organized emergency medicine residency program, scientific research and international collaboration with the well known international emergency medical societies, will definitely lead to further improvement of emergency service and brightens the prospects of this service for future medical candidates.

Needs references