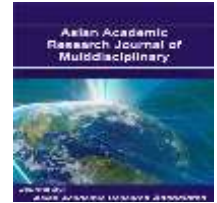




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IMPROVING THE PRE HOSPITAL CARE OF ROAD TRAFFIC INJURIES IN SAUDI ARABIA

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Abstract

Road traffic injuries cause enormous morbidity and mortality worldwide and place heavy burdens on global and national economies. Although all regions are affected, low- and middle-income countries share a disproportionate burden. The significance of this public health threat is growing in Saudi Arabia, where current estimates show that 10.0 percent of all deaths in the country are due to RTIs and it is the second cause of death [World Health Organization, 2010]. Improvements in emergency medical services and pre-hospital trauma care can help minimize mortality and morbidity from road traffic injuries (RTIs) worldwide, particularly in a high rate country of RTIs such as Saudi Arabia. The current study aimed to explore pre-hospital trauma care process for RTI victims in Saudi Arabia and to identify potential areas for improvements based on the experience and perception of pre-hospital trauma care professionals. A qualitative study design using a grounded theory approach was selected. The data, collected via in depth interviews with 20 pre-hospital trauma care professionals, and by accessing public record irrespective of form (e.g. Photograph, painting, biography, television broadcast, news report, survey, government or organizational document, etc.) Were analyzed using the constant comparative method. Public education and six categories emerged to describe the factors that improve pre-hospital trauma care process: (1) staff qualifications and competences, (2) availability and distribution of resources, (3) communication and transportation, (4) involved organizations, (5) laypeople and (6) infrastructure.

Keywords: RTI, Pre hospital care, Road traffic injuries, Trauma.

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