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VARIA – Letter to Editor

Challenging of COVID-19 crisis in the Emergency Department

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Dear editor,

The outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is quickly spreading in the world [1]. The COVID-19 has negatively affected the standard services presented in the emergency department (ED). The ED must provide health services to large populations with various health problems. COVID-19 conditions raised pressure on the limited resources in ED and caused interruptions in preliminary treatment. Recently, evidence verified that there are increased rates in emergency healthcare services usage because of the raising traumatic injuries. In the COVID-19 crisis, the statistics and causes of trauma injuries patients were dramatically changed and because of the attendance of further family memberships at household domestic injuries and burning in children were increased [2].

Healthcare services overcrowding has negative consequences to the patients, the healthcare services, and the population. Overcrowding of the healthcare services could also hurt standards services preparation [2]. Moreover, in an outbreak of a communicable disease such as COVID-19, overcrowding has specific negative consequences on controlling and prevention of expansion of diseases. Overcrowding in ED could be the trigger to spread COVID-19 more rapidly. Furthermore, the structure in many EDs is insufficient for facing with overcrowding of patients, causing unsatisfactory situations while people are anticipated to have prolonged for suitable treatment in ED. Also, in many EDs maybe there are inadequate clinical spaces to facilitate evaluation and therapy of cases with confidentiality. Also, there are a high number of emergency patients and the seriousness of their conditions has hindered the timely admissions of emergency patients and cause overcrowding of healthcare services. The increased high non-urgent patients that were scared from coronavirus flow to the hospitals were other identified factors that contributed to the hospital crowding. These circumstances have adversely affected the quality of services and performance.

Following the quick spread of the COVID-19 crisis in the world, unfortunately, there is a limitation to access to supplies such as gloves, medical masks, respirators, hand washers, etc. However, a shortage of personal protective equipment could endanger the general population and as well as healthcare workers. Governments and healthcare administrators must performance rapidly to provide supplies.

Healthcare workers involved with COVID-19 cases in ED were commonly under high pressure. Maintaining the mental health of Healthcare workers in ED is very crucial to manage COVID-19 cases. Administrators must have care to the work stress and the associated causes of the Healthcare workers.

A suitable registry system in ED could help for better management and follow-up of COVID 19 cases and also it could help researchers for better understanding and studying about various aspects of COVID 19 during a long time follow-up after treatment.

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