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Transdisciplinary Study on Earthquake-related Diseases (7) For Improving Emergency Ambulance Activities

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Under a major title as above we have recently been studying for optimization of ambulance activities at an attack by a significant earthquake. This is just continuous study report. Mizunami city, Gifu prefecture, as a sample area in this study, where our Institute locates, has been operating 3 ambulances and it is in higher level than that of the Japan standards. The activities in ordinary situation are therefore satisfactory as to be able to cover 80 or higher percentage of responses to emergency phone calls by 119. In case when a large earthquake attacks, however, the ambulance activities available get down as low as 10% in immediate stages, and therefore any improvement as either reduction of calls by 119 or quicker turn-around time service of ambulance activity is expected. From this point, we introduced probable strategies via simulation in a previous study. But, no detail examination was introduced to know whether the proposed strategies work well or not. This paper pays special effort for examining the reality of the proposed strategies, obtaining additional field data from the sample area.

What found via the analyses of ambulance activity data are that the ambulance dispatches for lightly suffered patients is still over weighted, and we should recall the primary role of ambulance activities. It is nothing but an activity to assist life saving in emergency situations. In this respect we arrive at a conclusion that no lightly suffered citizens are to be transported in use of a limited number of ambulances, especially in unusual situation as an earthquake attack.

Keywords: Earthquake-related Health Consequences, Seriousness Level, Ambulance Activity, Call-response Rate, Simulation