Continuing Care for Patients on Chronic Hemodialysis During Disasters and Armed Conflicts

Prof. Dr. Serhan Tuğlular, MD
Division of Nephrology, School of Medicine, Marmara University
European Renal Association (ERA) – Renal Disaster Relief Task Force (RDRTF) Chair

Prof. Dr. Burcu Balçık, PhD
Dept. of Industrial Engineering, Özyeğin University

Funded by TUBITAK Grant #219M356
Outline

❖ Background
  ▪ Patients with chronic kidney disease
  ▪ Providing care at the time of natural disasters and armed conflicts

❖ Cases
  ▪ Istanbul earthquake preparedness and response
  ▪ Response during war in Ukraine

❖ Lessons Learned and Remarks
A severe earthquake is expected in Istanbul

- Population of 17 million
- > 10000 patients on chronic dialysis
- AFAD (2018) predictions: 7.5 earthquake, 30000 deaths, 60000 injuries, 2.4 million without shelter

Collaborative Research

- Renal Disaster Relief Task Force (RDRTF) - Turkey

Decision Support Tool for Earthquake Preparedness and Response

- A systematic (optimization-based) approach and practical tool to assign patients on chronic dialysis to post-disaster capacity effectively
- Pre-disaster scenario analysis and planning
- Post-disaster planning and coordination
Response during War in Ukraine

❖ War in Ukraine
  ▪ Began in February 2022 and escalated quickly
  ▪ Disrupted infrastructure, including health care facilities
  ▪ Limited access to sanitation, to food, water and medical care
  ▪ As of August 2022:
    • 6.4 million refugees
    • 8 million displaced within Ukraine

❖ Kidney patients
  • 11,181 patients with kidney diseases
  • 6,017 patients on chronic dialysis
  • 700 refugees on chronic dialysis (September 2022)
    • Most stayed in the country (Migration from East to West)
Response during War in Ukraine Coordination: Renal Relief Actors

❖ Numerous stakeholders took role in health care provision

❖ The Renal Disaster Relief Task Force (RDRTF) appointed by The European Renal Association (ERA)
   ▪ Enable communication/coordination among key actors by collecting information on:
     • Internally and externally displaced patients with kidney disease
     • Capacity to treat
     • Urgent needs (medications, dialysis material and others)
     • Donation possibilities
     • How to ensure regular and safe supply delivery
Thank you.