



Evaluation of Risk Perception and Management in Emergency Medical Services Providers Working in Pre-hospital Areas in Kayseri, Turkey

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ABSTRACT Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Providers' perceptions and management of occupational risk factors are the main determinants for risk control in Emergency Medical Services. The aim of this study was to investigate the perception of occupational risk factors and their management by EMS providers. This cross-sectional study based on self-reporting was conducted with 160 providers working in Kayseri. The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics. The mean age in the study was 25.4±3.7. The majority of providers (73.9%) were emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics. Having to worry about working with forensic cases (82%), expos to burnout (75.8%), and violence (72%) were the major risk factors and threats for personal-safety. Using personal protective equipment (PPE) during invasive procedures (intubation 16.7%, aspiration 14%, and delivery 34.7%) and sensitivity of pre-employment protective immunizations against certain antigens is very low. Permanent disability based on overexertion during load lifting (65.3%), traumatization during pregnancy (54.5%), and death (52.0%) were the main potential complications for providers. Fear of personal safety and workplace violence were the most acute stressors for EMS providers. The level of risk perception, compliance with universal protective measures and sensitivity of protective immunization against certain antigens is considerable lower.