



The Medical **Bulletin**

In Clinical Pearl

Triage in Disaster management

- Triage is one of the key principles of the effective management of major emergencies e.g. Mass casualty, disasters.
- Triage is derived from the French word “trier”, which means separating, categorizing or classifying, it refers to the categorization, classification, and prioritization of patients and injured people, based on their urgent need for treatment.
- Triage allows emergency team responders to treat everyone, to prioritize care services, so that most services are provided to the greatest number of injured people.
- The triage system helps EMS team to determine which groups of the patients should receive treatment immediately based on their clinical status, the prognosis of disease and available resources.
- There are three stages of Triage- First- is the primary triage which is carried out at the scene of the incident. Prompt assessment of the injured person and rapid transfer to the treatment center. Secondary triage is done by an emergency doctor or surgeon as soon as the injured person arrives at the hospital. It is used in disasters when, due to the large extent of the incident and lack of resources at the site, the transmission of the injured person has been prolonged. The third triage is performed by a surgeon or a critical care specialist to prioritize and decide transferring of victims to the operating room or the intensive care unit.

Reference- Bazyar J, Farrokhi M, Khankeh H. Triage Systems in Mass Casualty Incidents and Disasters: A Review Study with A Worldwide Approach. *Open Access Maced J Med Sci.* 2019 Feb 12;7(3):482-494. doi: 10.3889/oamjms.2019.119. PMID: 30834023; PMCID: PMC6390156.

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