「発表抄録1」

It is all about Communication and Teamwork—Chemical Terrorist Attack and Hospital Response in Tokyo

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Early on the morning of March 20, 1995, the cult Aum Shinrikyo released sarin gas, a nerve gas, into the Tokyo subway system, killing a dozen people and sickening hundreds. The Tokyo subway sarin attack turned out to be the largest scale disaster of chemical terrorism attack in the recent history. St. Luke's International Hospital in Tokyo was close to one of the most affected subway-stations and was the largest hospital in the immediate area. Therefore, the hospital received the greatest number of victims within the Tokyo metropolitan area, that is, 640 victims on that day, including three victims who arrived in cardio-pulmonary arrest. We saw a total of 1,410 victims in the week following the attack. Shortly after the president of the hospital saw a large influx of victims at the emergency department, he made a serious decision to cancel all scheduled outpatients' clinics and surgical operations except for the patients already under anesthesia. The hospital accommodated all victims in the chapel, spacious corridors, and an unused ward. All health-care providers and administrative staff, including those who were supposed to be off-duty on that day, came to the hospital to care for victims suffering exposure to the sarin gas. We had a lot of support from outside of the hospital including the staff and the students from St. Luke's College of Nursing and portable beds from Tokyo metropolitan government. We distributed emergency memorandums to share the information on the attack and the hospital responses with not only the staff but also the victims. In addition, we also developed emergency guidelines for care of the victims. We carefully triaged all victims according to their signs and symptoms and then admitted 111 victims with moderate or severe signs and symptoms on that day, including 4 victims who were admitted to the intensive care unit. Over the next few days, the most victims were discharged without any apparent physical complications except for residual symptoms of the eyes. Throughout the sarin attack and its aftermath, there was great cooperation as medical professionals and volunteers contributed to the successful care of mass casualties.