The UK Response to the Earthquakes in Sichuan and Haiti

Tony Redmond





UK Response

• Core surgical team

• Supported clinically by emergency medicine specialist nurses and physicians





Orthoplastic Surgery









Sichuan earthquake 2008



















Faculty of first Sino/British Conference of Emergency Medicine, Disaster Preparedness and Spinal Cord Injury.





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Sino British Cooperation

- Doctors and nurses from Beijing and Chengdu came to UK to take part in emergency training programmes
- Doctors and nurses from UK have come to Beijing and Chengdu to take part in training programmes on emergency medicine, disaster planning and preparedness and nurse training.





The emergency response can (should) merge into the development response

The UK medical response to the Sichuan earthquake Redmond and Li EMJ 2010



















John Travolta flew his own plane into PaP

Over 200 scientologists carried out healing by touch





Lesson 1

• Only go if you're asked.....





A Qualitative and Quantitative Study of the Surgical and Rehabilitation Response to the Earthquake in Haiti, January 2010

Redmond et al, Prehospital and Disaster Medicine December 2011 26 : pp 449-456





"...there were no physical records accompanying patients to indicate their diagnoses, operations or care plan...."

Peranteau et al J Am Coll surg 2010





"...there is the related dichotomy between compassion/charity and the accountability for legal obligations that a human rights approach to health and development demands."

Yamin, Health and human rights journal 2010





"International organisations providing surgical services are diverse in size and breadth....yet with consistency provide rudimentary analysis postoperative follow up care and both education and integration of health services at the local level"

Kelly et al World Journal of Surgery 2009







• Be accountable





300,000 injured, >4000 amputations

PAHO/WHO sitrep 18 May 2010





Amputations

- The amputation rate for FMTs ranged from 1% to 47% of procedures
- Guillotine amputations were carried out as the sole procedure
- Carried out by practitioners who wouldn't (couldn't) do the procedure in their own country





Lesson 3

- We need consensus guidelines followed by evidence
- Military experience of rich countries does not always translate into expertise in poor countries





Harvard Humanitarian Initiative: Best Practice for Amputations following Disasters and During Conflict

Prehospital and Disaster Medicine 2011



