

Work of Health Center on the Island of Korčula, Croatia, during War Isolation in 1991

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Aim. Presentation of the work of a health institution on an island which suffered military attacks and was isolated both from the land and from the neighboring islands by war operations.

Setting. Primary health care had to be adapted to war conditions; medical care echelons created; emergency war surgery, hospital care, and postoperative care unit organized; anaesthesiology, transfusiology, and sterilization units formed. The units were run by the local staff, with several specialists who had arrived from the Split University Hospital.

Results. Of the total number of 301 surgically treated patients, 81 received general or regional anesthesia, and 21 received whole blood transfusions. A hundred and ten patients received conservative treatment in the hospital, whereas 151 underwent consultation examinations. Sixteen were evacuated for further treatment to the Split University Hospital.

Conclusion. The Center started working in a comparatively short period of time (30 days). Many lives were saved, most of the wounded soldiers returned to the front, and treatment was efficiently provided for the emergency patients who could not reach specialized institutions in Split and Dubrovnik.

Key words: Croatia; health centers, ambulatory; island; surgery; war