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EARTHQUAKE-RELATED INJURIES AMONG SURVIVORS: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND QUANTITATIVE SYNTHESIS OF THE LITERATURE

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Earthquakes have caused widespread casualties and significant loss of assets worldwide. In order to provide robust disaster preparedness and an optimized response, the current study identified and described the exact type and distribution of earthquake injuries of victims who were transferred to hospitals based on a meta analysis of 74 research articles selected using systematic methods that encompass articles from China as well as from other countries that were published over the past 50 years. In this analysis, fractures, soft tissue and crush injuries were the three most common and most reported injury types. Extremities and the head/neck were the most common and mentioned injury locations. Being struck by an object was the major cause of earthquake-associated mortality. In high-magnitude earthquakes compared to those in low-magnitude earthquakes observed a lower percent of soft tissue injuries and a higher percent of nerve injuries. Patients from countries with high levels of economic development suffered a higher percent of fracture and multiple injuries, but a lower percent of nerve and spine injury compared to those of patients from countries with low levels of economic development. Earthquakes will continue to strike, and healthcare responders must be prepared to overcome the resulting situations by anticipating consequences and planning accordingly.

Biography

Bihan Tang is a PhD student majoring in public health from Second Military Medical University in China. She is now studying in University of California, Los Angeles as a visiting graduate researcher. She has published nine SCI papers as the first or co-first author in related journals.

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