

Emergency medicine in Switzerland (Monday, Sept. 15th – Track E)

Switzerland has the highest density of hospital beds and the second highest expenditure of health care cost in the world. As a consequence of this, the Health Care System is of high standard, but also very complex due to the 26 Cantons which all possess their own Ministry of Health. Nevertheless, emergency medicine still faces great challenges in Switzerland. Despite having a recognised post-graduate medical program for pre-hospital emergency medicine, our two-tier system (1st level paramedics, 2nd level emergency physicians) is realised only in some cities and urban agglomerations. Due to the economic recession even this achievement has been put into question. In the in-hospital care, emergency medicine as a speciality, still has not found acceptance within the Swiss Medical Association. On the contrary, emergency medicine faces heavy opposition. The lack of an in-hospital speciality "emergency medicine" is responsible for several deficits in the realm of emergency medicine such as in the education of nurses and physicians, in the area of research, in organisational issues such as for example trauma regionalisation and in the patient management especially regarding multidisciplinary cases. In order to tackle these challenges we would need evidence based facts. Therefore research in emergency medicine is of greatest importance.

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PD Dr. Joseph J. Osterwalder MPH
Head of Emergency Department
Cantonal Hospital St.Gallen
Rorschacherstrasse 97
CH-9007 St.Gallen
Tel.: ++41 71 494 36 00
Fax: ++41 71 494 28 07
e-mail: joseph.osterwalder@kssg.ch