Dental Disaster Squad: Necessity of the Hour in Iran

Dear Editor,

Disasters may be natural (earthquakes, Tsunami), accidental (airline, train) or man-made (terrorist attacks, bombings).1 Iran ranks among countries suffering from the highest number of earthquake disasters.2 In Iran, dental professionals are considered as third degree team in disaster management.3 A third degree team is defined as, “an elementary team without the essential facilities, equipment or personnel for a total team, but their personnel can be used as a substitute for other teams position”.3 Dental professionals play an important role in identification of individuals in disasters by comparative dental identification and reconstructive dental identification.4 DNA profiling of teeth through molecular techniques also aids in identification in disasters.5 It is also advisable to follow the Indonesian disaster victim identification model in the dental disaster squad.6 In the present scenario of disaster management, dental professionals in Iran should be upgraded from third degree team to first degree team.

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