Executive Summary

Background

As trauma deaths have increased whereas age-standardised mortality rates have declined, improving trauma care is an issue of crucial importance for both developed and developing countries.

Objectives of the project

This project's final goal is to find a way to limit the social burden posed by trauma victims. The first phase of the project reported herewith aims to find a shareable approach to creating beneficial effects and synergies by exchanging advanced and multidimensional perspectives through interactive communication between trauma surgeons in India and Japan.

Exchange of experts

To establish a strong communication bridge between two countries, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), the Japanese Association for Acute Medicine (JAAM) and Japanese Association for the Surgery of Trauma (JAST) jointly concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the mutual exchange of surgeons and related experts. Six doctors were selected from the Japanese joint association and participated in trauma care in 'AIIMS-JPN Trauma Center.' Meanwhile, five AIIMS members, including the Director of AIIMS, Dr. Guleria, visited and observed trauma care facilities, ambulance systems, and trauma training progammes in Japan.

Activities

Japanese members participated in the treatment of several trauma cases and pointed out differences in resuscitation approaches between the AIIMS and Japanese institutions. They suggested that the mutual exchange and share of trauma care techniques and instruments could strengthen both countries' trauma care quality. Moreover, the Japanese comprehensive emergency system is predicted to contribute to improving the prehospital system in India. To improve the approach in trauma care, training in technical and non-technical skills is needed. Japan's trauma care training courses are known for their effectiveness and, from this perspective, Japan's surgeons could contribute to upgrading the level of trauma care in India.

The AIIMS' members learned a lot about using advanced technology in the management of trauma victims during their Japan visit. They were also able to gain valuable insights on the importance of strict laws and the magnitude of investment in healthcare required for the effective care of the injured. At the same time, they felt that Japan could be a suitable place for doctors, nurses, and paramedical staff from the AIIMS to learn about the optimum use of advanced technology to help patients. Furthermore, they were thrilled to learn about trauma care training courses and excited to create similar courses in India with support from the JAAM and JAST joint association.

Outcomes

Communication amongst doctors, nurses, and medical staff; mutual exchange of ideas and shared experiences; and training programmes adapted to each country's needs are expected to contribute to improving trauma care in each country.