

Regional Multicenter Online Trauma Death Audit Meeting - Shenzhen's Plan to Reduce Trauma-Related Preventable Mortality

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Introduction

The trauma related death audit meeting is an effective method to improve the quality of trauma care^[1,2]. However, for a single trauma center, there are fewer trauma death cases, making it difficult to enhance trauma quality quickly through trauma death audit meeting. Establishing a regional multi-center network trauma death audit meeting involving multiple trauma centers can address this issue.

Method

Fourteen trauma centers in Shenzhen participated in 9 times online trauma related death audit meetings (Fig.1, Fig.2) from Aug. 31, 2023 to Dec. 31, 2023. The expert group participating in these meetings consists of 8 to 10 specialties including general surgery, orthopedics, emergency medicine, neurosurgery, and intensive care units. Standardized form (Fig.2) was used to document the patient's treatment process and details in every case during the meeting. The final determination of whether the deaths were preventable and the agreed-upon measures for improvement were documented with the consent and signatures of each member of the expert groups.



Fig.1 Notification of one of the meetings

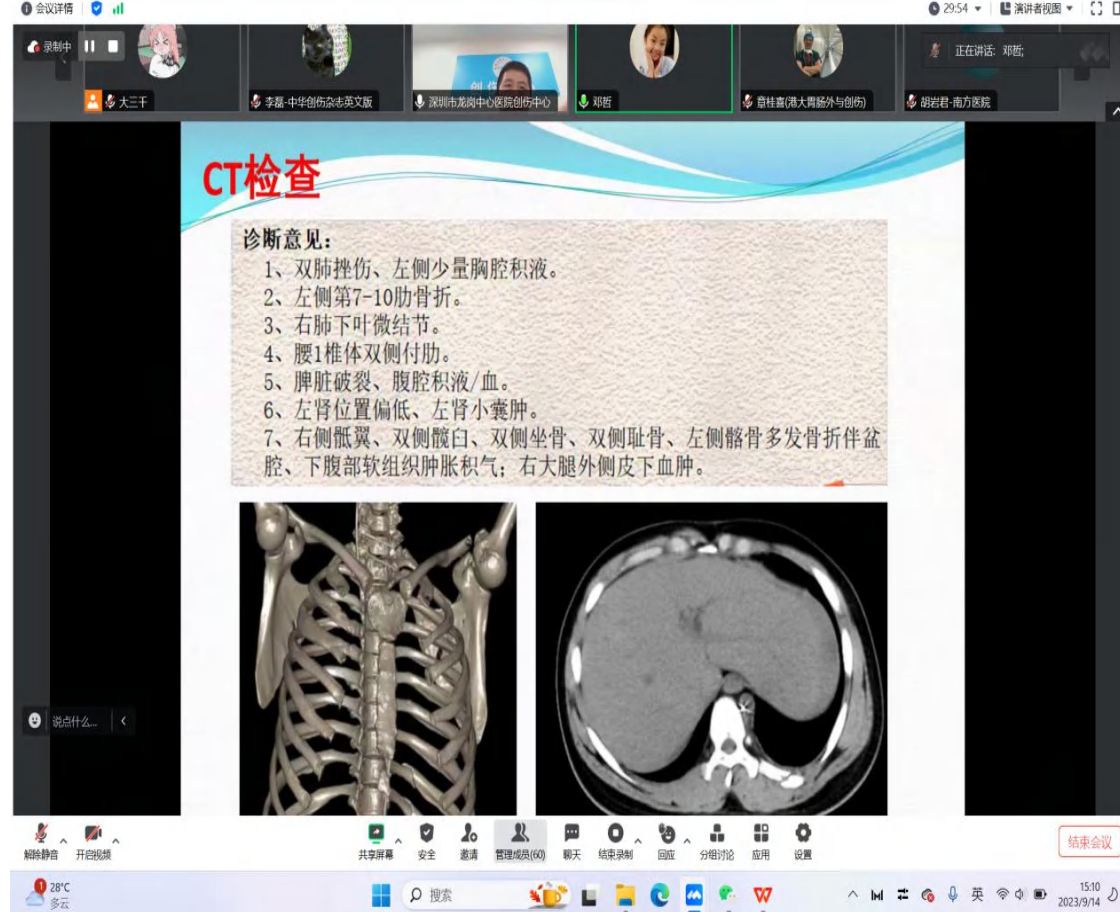


Fig.2 A screenshot of meeting video records

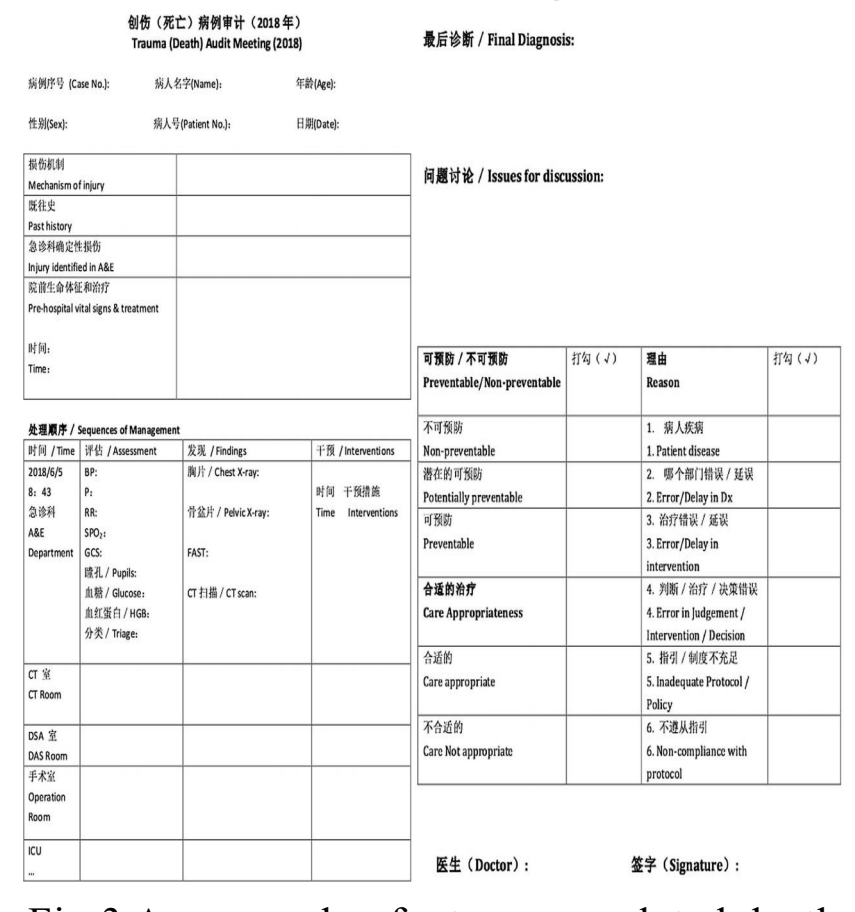


Fig.3 An example of a trauma -related death audit meeting (in chinese and english)

Result

A total of 18 death cases were audited, among which 14 were considered as non-preventable deaths, 2 were deemed preventable deaths and 2 were identified as potentially preventable deaths. A total of 30 improvement measures were proposed, including 10 related to error/delay in intervention, 6 related to inadequate policy, 5 related to error/inappropriate in judgement/decision, 5 related to inadequate treatment protocol and 4 related to error/delay in examination.

Conclusion

Regional multi-center network trauma death audit meetings can efficiently audit a large number of death cases in a short period and identify improvement measures. It is a highly effective approach for trauma quality improvement, contributing to the overall enhancement of regional trauma care and reducing preventable mortality.

References

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- Zhang GX, Chen KJ, Zhu HT, et al. Preventable Deaths in Multiple Trauma Patients: The Importance of Auditing and Continuous Quality Improvement. World J Surg. 2020 Jun;44(6):1835-1843