

Physicians' experiences of providing emergency care to undocumented migrants arriving in Spain by small boats

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Abstract

Introduction: Access to emergency care for undocumented migrants (UMs) is a public health problem. Spain receives thousands of UMs who arrive by sea. A multidisciplinary team of the Spanish Red Cross, made up of physicians, nurses, police, and cultural mediators, developed emergency care for UMs. **Aim:** The aim of our study is to describe and understand the experiences of physicians in emergency care for UMs who arrive in Spain by small boats **Methods:** Qualitative study, based on Gadamer's phenomenology. Convenience and purposive sampling was carried out and included sixteen in-depth interviews with physicians, between June 2019 and March 2020 in Spain. **Results:** Three main themes emerged: 1) Rediscovering humanistic medicine; 2) Leaving the personal and professional comfort zone; 3) Improving medical emergency care. **Conclusions:** Triage, pharmacological prescription, and the closure of the emergency care process are the key contributions of medical care. Cultural, language and security barriers make emergency care difficult.

Author keywords

Emergency care
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