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# Analysis on Experiences of DMAT Nurses Activities at Disaster Sites -Required Practical Skills-

Sasaki Kosuke  
Disaster Nursing Global Leader Degree Program  
Graduate School of Nursing  
University of Kochi, Japan

# 【Background 】

17/01/1995

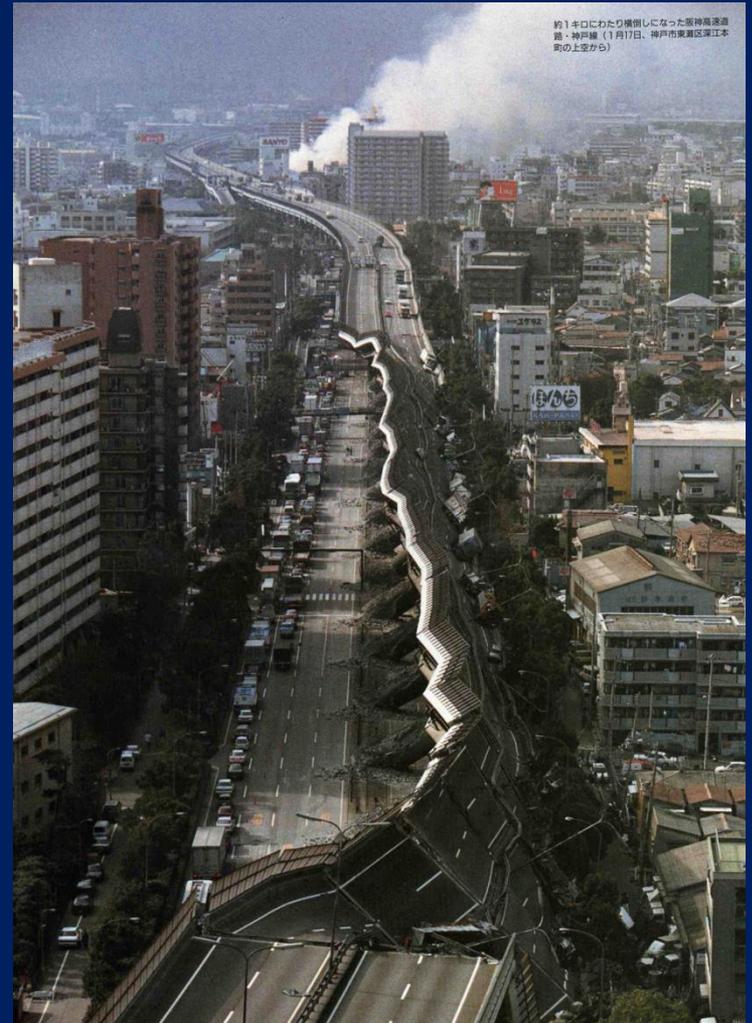
Great Hanshin Awaji earthquake  
6433 people deaths occurred



500 people

“ Preventable disaster death ”

2005, DMAT system established



## <On the role of DMAT nurses during disasters>

During the Niigataken Chuetsu-oki Earthquake in 2007, there were many roles of DMAT nurses such as:

- ✓ inventory and equipment management
- ✓ preparations needed for dispatch,
- ✓ information gathering
- ✓ communication and information transfer
- ✓ records
- ✓ medical assistance
- ✓ life guidance
- ✓ health guidance
- ✓ role of coordinators (highly suggested)



# Problem Statement

- ✓ DMAT currently holds the nurses accounting for 40% of the total number.(2015)
- ✓ Studies on nursing practical skills including the role and judgments required for DMATs are rarely conducted.
- ✓ It is necessary to examine the practical skills required by DMAT nurses because it has been limited only to practical reports,



## 【Purpose】

Purpose is to clarify the working experiences of DMAT nurses at the disaster situations, explore the roles they performed, and to obtain suggestions for the required practical skills.

# 【Methods】

## Research design

- Qualitative descriptive design
- semi structured interview

## Data collection period

October - December 2017

## Area

- Shikoku area, Japan

## Participants

- 8 DMAT nurses

# 【Characteristics of Participants】

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Department of work	Emergency center	Outpatient	Radiology	Operating room	Emergency center	Emergency center	Acute ward	Acute ward
Years of experience	9years	2years	32years	15years	23years	31years	16years	8years
Role	leader	chief	leader	leader	leader	Emergency Certified Nurse	chief Stroke Rehabilitation Certified Nurse	leader
DMAT belonging years	1years 3months	3years 2months	12years	3years	6years	12years	11years	5years
Experience in the disaster site	Activities as DMAT							
	Kumamoto earthquake	Kumamoto earthquake	East Japan great earthquake Kumamoto earthquake	Kumamoto earthquake	Kumamoto earthquake	East Japan great earthquake	Kumamoto earthquake	Kumamoto earthquake
	Activities other than DMAT							
	None	None	Philippine earthquake APEC	None	East Japan great earthquake	None	None	East Japan great earthquake

# 【Result】

<Local Activities as DMAT>

## Assessment of disaster situation

"My work was to check everything around and make a report to Headquater such as where are the evacuation centers? What is the current situation now? How many people are there? Is there any influence on health of people with sickness? Is Everything OK with food? Is Water available? Is the Toilet clean? etc".

<Care on behalf of nurses who cannot go to work>

"I was working late at night. I helped with oral care, excretion assistance, tube feeding, etc. I was taking the place of a staff who could not come to work. Due to our help, staff could take a little rest. "

<Management ability>

Making necessary adjustment with all related organizations

<Adjustment within DMAT team>

"We were doing health management of the team and 3 nurses were cooking breakfast. We rented the place like a dining room, so we brought the food and cooked for the member, and helped each other. "

<Safety management>

"People in DMAT need to know rules, such as proper safety confirmation in case of an aftershock at the headquarters. I think it is the nurse's role to carry out the safety management of the members."

2. What the DMAT nurse realized after practicing onsite activities  
<Differences from activities I have imagined>

Response to pregnant women

"I have never cared a pregnant woman, so doctor decided to carry a helicopter, but he said" Can you join?". I could not answer anything. It was painful at that time to realize that I didn't have enough power to reach DMAT.

Fast-changing mission.

"I was wondering if my work would end like this.

" I thought it was a shame because I did not know much about hospital support at this time, so it is not so different from what I usually do with work."

<Scenes in which the skills gained through daily work is utilized>

Knowledge and skills gained at the real scene of the emergency case

"I think that it is the nurse of DMAT who acquires knowledge about what to see first when an emergency patient comes ... I think observation is important for judgment.

Utilization of the knowledge gained through ward management during management of disaster sites

"Even if I am usually in the ward, I can do the ward management while grasping how many people are hospitalized and how many people are moving in."

What the DMAT nurse realized after practicing onsite activities??

- ✓ Response to pregnant women
- ✓ Fast-changing mission
- ✓ Communication skills cultivated through daily practice of nursing

# 【Conclusion】

Assessment abilities required in afflicted areas:

- ✓ Gathering information while searching
- ✓ Assessment of disaster situation
- ✓ Management abilities
- ✓ Care abilities
- ✓ Abilities to organize and support the team
- ✓ capacity to handle various kinds of disasters

## 【Suggestions】

It was suggested that DMAT nurses require the knowledge and skills related to general medical care which are sufficient to respond to various activities in uncertain situations immediately after a disaster hits as well as action skills based on appropriate judgments.

Thank you !  
Danke schön!