

Telemedisin ved skader, muligheter med ny teknologi

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Resymé av foredrag

Norwegian hospitals face several challenges regarding the huge medical possibilities and the large expectations in contrast to the sparse economical budgets offered. The expectation to the offshore health service is close to what is currently offered by the pre-hospital medical service in rural areas of the Norwegian country. DFU7 recommends transport to hospital within three hours in the case of injury or medical emergency with the need of external assistance. The reason for choosing three hours is not evidence based, but a compromise. We will have to struggle to reach this goal in the parts of the Barents Sea.

When assessing offshore SAR base location, distance to the closest hospital is often used. In some cases, with severely ill or injured patients, the distance to the nearest University hospital will be most important. The distance from Atlantis to Tromsø is about 510 km, while the distance between Atlantis and Hammerfest is 360 km.

The last two decades, medical emergencies are dominating compared to injuries in evacuations by the Statoil's SAR helicopters. The SAR crew experiences none or only a few severely ill or injured offshore patients annually. Many medical emergencies are complex and the communication with the duty doctor on-shore is crucial. Live video communication is preferred.

Live in-flight video communication might increase the quality in examination and treatment.. Currently there are almost not possible to communicate with the duty doctor during the flight. In-flight voice communication, patient monitor data, text messaging or mail, helicopter position, picture or video transfer and ultrasound video must be evaluated. This will increase the quality of the duty doctors' recommended treatment.

To preserve medical qualifications, SAR nurses need regular experience in emergency medical treatment at a hospital between the offshore periods.

Evaluation of new technology and implementing available technology in medical diagnostics and treatment must be considered when operating in the distant parts of the Barents area. We have identified lack of knowledge on both medical treatment performed by the SAR crew and patient outcome. Our recently started research project in cooperation with Statoil is assessing these issues and some of the challenges with live in-flight video communication.