

Medical Problems Encountered among Travelers in Bahrain International Airport Clinic

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ABSTARCT

Background. The Middle East is one of the most rapidly growing destinations for travelers.

Objectives. To determine the medical conditions affecting travelers needing medical assistance in Bahrain International Airport (BIA).

Method. Log book documenting medical conditions of travelers presenting to the BIA clinic from January 1st till end of December 2004 was reviewed.

Results. Three thousand and fifty travelers attended the clinic constituting 0.12% of the disembarking and transit travelers. Most common conditions faced were respiratory problems 24.4%, followed by headaches 19.2%, trauma and musculoskeletal 12.9%, and gastrointestinal problems 11.0%. Only 2.1% of all complaints were referred to secondary care. The majority of cases were handled by the nurse.

Conclusions. Majority of cases examined had acute minor medical problems. Ninety eight percent of conditions affecting travelers were handled in the airport clinic by the nurse and the family physician. Airport clinic could serve as an efficient emergency triage system for filtering serious illnesses needing urgent management

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