

In flight transfer – muligheter for medisinsk assistanse i helikopteret

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Resymé av foredrag

Norwegian health service faces several challenges regarding the medical possibilities and the 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 far northern part 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.

In at least the last decade, medical emergencies are dominating compared to injuries evacuated by SAR helicopters. Many medical emergencies are complex and the communication with the duty doctor on-shore is crucial. Live video communication is in challenging cases the preferred option. Currently there are almost not possible to communicate with the duty doctor in flight.

Live in-flight video communication might increase the quality in examination and treatment. Patient measurements, audio, video, ultrasound, live helicopter position and treatment notes are data that are possible to share and will increase the duty doctors' basis for decision making and the possibility to discuss the preferred treatment with the SAR nurse.

Our recently started research project in cooperation with Statoil is assessing several of the challenges with live in-flight video communication.