Effects of the big 2011 Thai flooding on paediatric surgeries

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Sir,

In the fourth trimester of 2011, the big flooding attacked nearly all provinces of Thailand affecting millions of local population. It is believed to be a big disaster having caused losses up to billion US dollars. Health wise, this flooding directly affected public health system in Thailand. Several hospitals have been destroyed by flooding and caused problems to the Thai medical care system. The flooding has severely affected the paediatric surgeries in Thailand. In summary, the flooding caused (a) loss of following up of the post-operative patients, (b) cancelling and delay of many paediatric surgeries, (c) difficulties in performing emergency paediatric surgeries in the flooding period, (d) flooding also caused shortening of several medical materials including intravenous fluid and (e) some paediatric surgeons have been blocked by flooding making it impossible for them to go to work. Also, some shelters people required emergency paediatric emergencies and make the situation more serious. Based on this situation, it can be confirmed the need for developing a plan to correspond to natural disaster.[1] The plan has to cover pre-storm evacuation plans to post-crisis management plans.[2,3]

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