TITLE: Helicopters for Emergency Medical Services: Clinical Effectiveness, Safety, and Guidelines

DATE: 21 December 2011

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the evidence for the clinical effectiveness of helicopters for emergency medical services?

2. What is the evidence for the safety of helicopters for emergency medical services?

3. What are the evidence-based guidelines for the provision of air ambulance services?

KEY MESSAGE

Limited evidence was identified regarding the clinical effectiveness or safety of helicopters for emergency medical services. No evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding the provision of air ambulance services.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, The Cochrane Library (2011, Issue 12), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. To address research questions one and two, methodological filters were applied to limit retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and safety data. To address research question three, methodological filters were applied to limit retrieval to guidelines. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2006 and December 16, 2011. Internet links were provided, where available.
RESULTS

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

Two systematic reviews and three non-randomized studies were identified regarding the clinical effectiveness or safety of helicopters for emergency medical services. No evidence-based guidelines were identified pertaining to the provision of air ambulance services. Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

Health Technology Assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses


Randomized Controlled Trials
No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies


Guidelines and Recommendations
No literature identified.

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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Review Articles


Additional References

