
PREVLADAVANJE ZDRAVSTVENIH TEGOBA ZAROBLJENIKA U DOMOVINSKOM RATU 1991. - 1995. - REUMATOLOŠKI ASPEKTI

OVERCOMING THE HEALTH DISCOMFORTS OF PRISONERS IN THE HOMELAND WAR 1991-1995 - RHEUMATOLOGICAL ASPECTS

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CILJ

During the Homeland War (1991-1995), concentration camps for Croatian prisoners of war (POWs) were organized in the neighboring country, which occupied one third of the Republic of Croatia. Newly opened camps in Vukovar, Begejci and Stajićevo were used for this purpose as well as prisons in Belgrade, Niš and Mitrovica. In them Croatian defenders were abused as prisoners of war as well as the civilian population of the occupied territories. The aim of this study is to find how faith and sacrifice helped POWs to overcome the consequences of abuse in concentration camps.

METODE

At the end of 1991, the first exchange of 1,458 prisoners was carried out. In the middle of 1992, another 268 were exchanged. In addition to physical abuse and starvation, these Croatian prisoners were housed in inhumane sanitary and climatic conditions. The first medical examination of Croatian POWs was carried out at the Clinic for Infectious Diseases in Zagreb, and then in some specialist clinics. At the rheumatology clinic of the Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Medicine in Zagreb, we examined 355 middle-aged Croatian POWs (34.6 ± 10.2 years) due to locomotor system (LMS) discomforts during 1992.

REZULTAT

We diagnosed LMS diseases much more often in Croatian POWs, as many as 70%, compared to 48% morbidity in the population study from 1972 to 1978,

the data of a comparison group that was not abused. Only 4.6% of Croatian POWs were not hit. More detailed information about these diagnoses was published in earlier works.

ZAKLJUČAK

We proposed treatment for 73% of Croatian POWs and disability retirement for 22%. According to the statements of Croatian POWs, faith and sacrifice for one's neighbor helped them overcome the consequences of abuse in concentration camps. Spiritual support through prayer and sacrifice for others contributed to a quicker overcoming of the horrors of war.