

Where Plans Fly or Fall: A mass casualty simulation implementation and lessons learned

Thomaz de Carvalho Lima Paiva¹; Maria Helena Nóbrega Nunes Sampaio²; Mateus Oliveira Carvalho²; Liriel Ferro Correia Costa²; Luiz Antônio Mansur³.

¹Medical Student, Afya-UNIMA, Maceió, Brazil; ²Medical Student, CESMAC, Maceió, Brazil; ³Emergency Physician, General Surgeon and Professor, CESMAC, Maceio, Brazil

Introduction

Realistic simulations have already established themselves as critical and essential tools in the teaching of medicine throughout the globe. This experience report describes how a group of students and an Emergency Medicine professor planned and conducted a simulated mass casualty event of an explosion in a medical graduation.

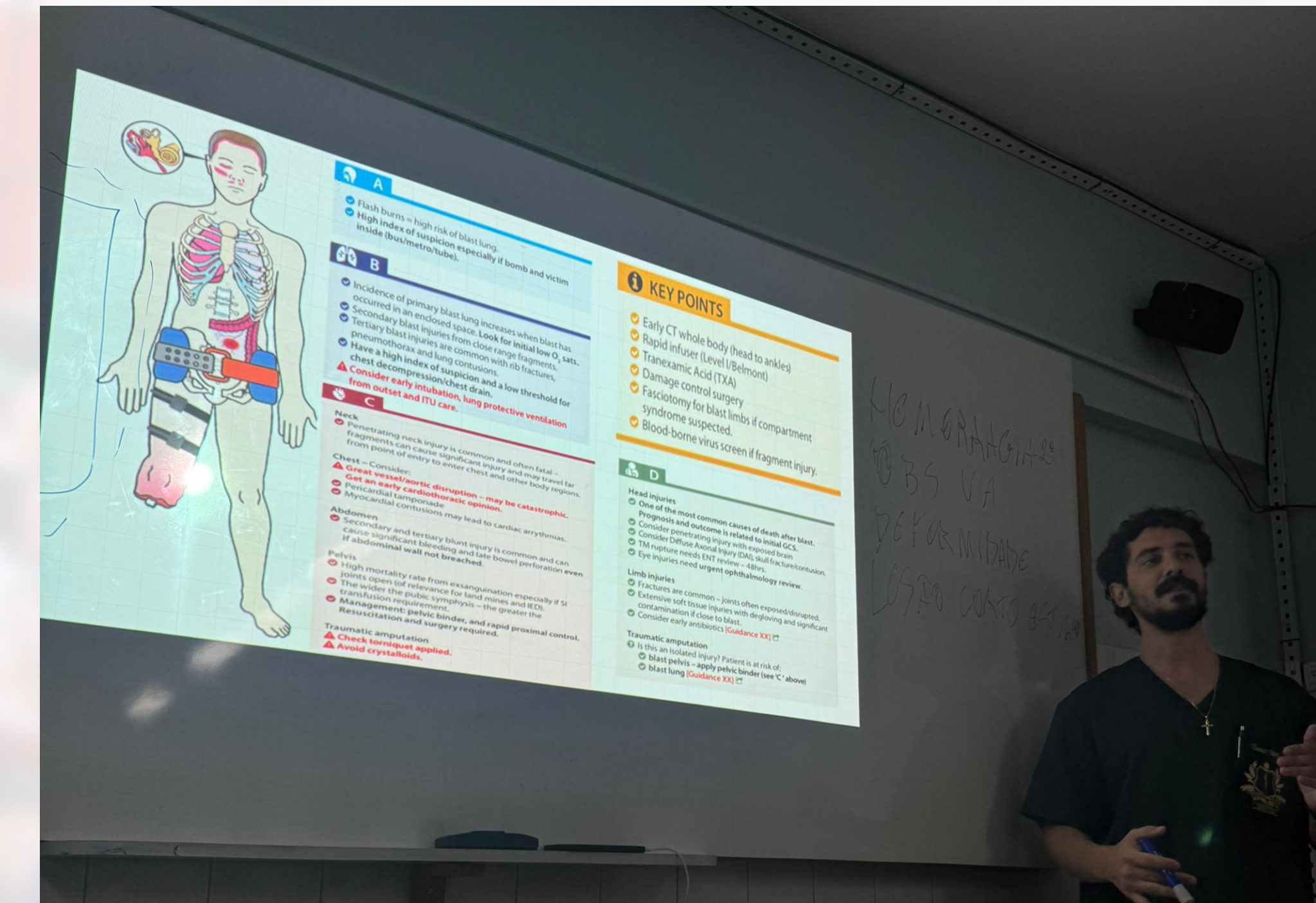
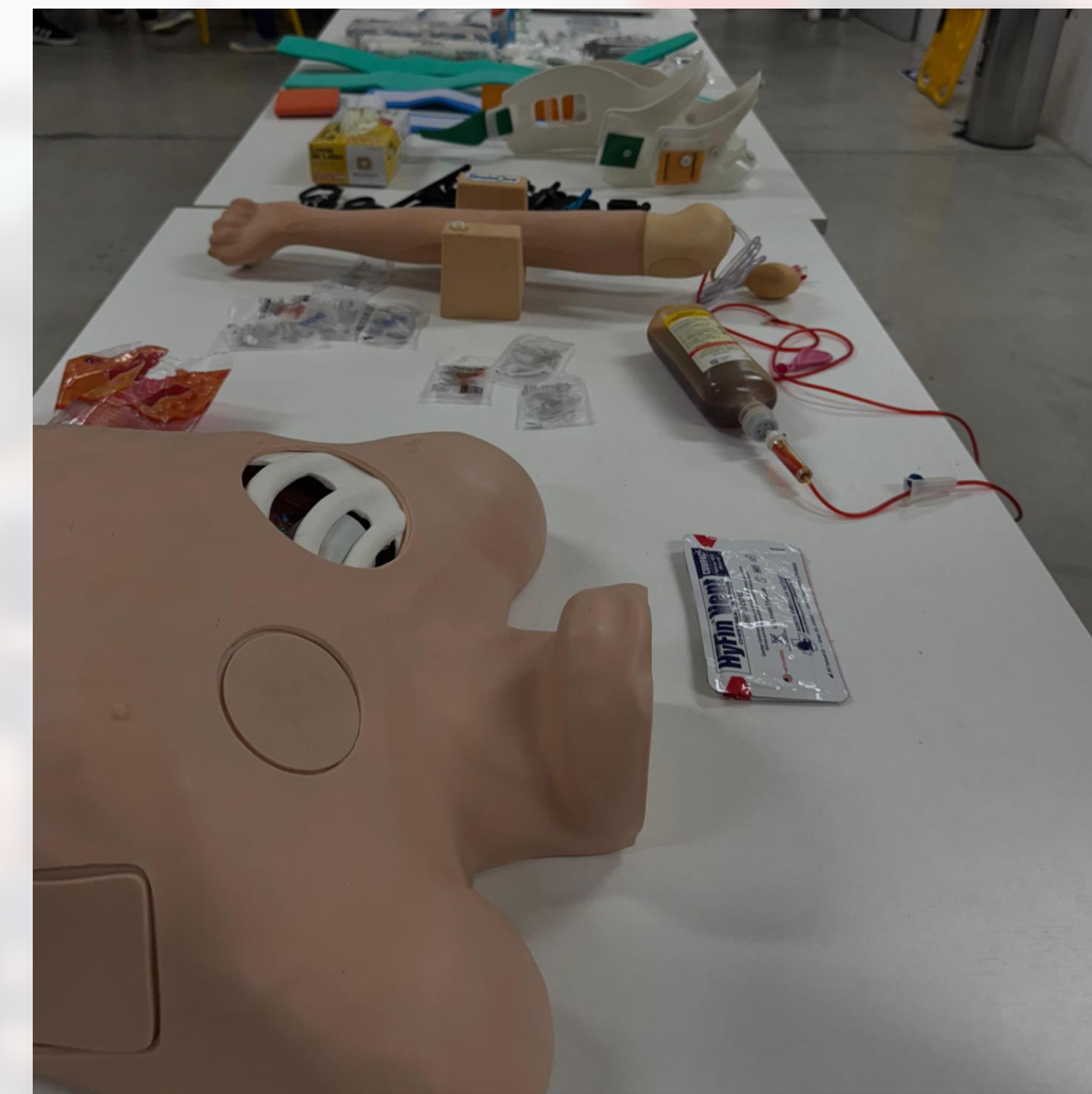
Methods



Experience Report

The training event was divided in two parts: the Preparation and the Scenario.

The Preparation consisted of 3 weeks of classes prior to the Scenario, including important topics such as triage, primary survey and prehospital care, among others. The week prior to the last class of the Preparation phase, the students were divided into groups of four, and given their crew number, going from RIG01 to RIG10.



The Scenario was a fuel tanker refueling a generator in a medical school graduation, both caught on fire leading to a high energy explosion. Thirty-four patients present at the time. The students came in by ambulances, searching for their designated patients and their crew instructor. The victims were removed from the POI, triaged, brought to the CCP, retriaged, and divided into the classification zones based on the START protocol. After treating and stabilizing all designated patients, the instructors debriefed them on their correct and incorrect decisions.



Conclusions

For the organizing committee, the experience of planning, assembling, and conducting such an event is not just unique, but extremely valuable, both academically and professionally.

For the students taking part as rescuers, the true test of what they learned was the actual scenario, being able to feel the stress of dealing with gravely injured patients, some of them known colleagues or even friends, with actual wounds, needing life-saving procedures and doing them with bloody and slippery gloves, on an incredibly stressful environment.

For the victims, both the preparation phase as well as the actual scenario gave them a brief but clear look into the world of emergency medicine and trauma care, realities that they won't see in college until much later in the graduation.

Further information

For pictures and videos, **check our Instagram**

@lakit.cesmac

Please, for further discussion, **feel free to contact**

thomazpaiva2010@hotmail.com