



A/A 26. PREVENTION AND RESPONSE MANAGEMENT TO A BIOLOGICAL THREAT IN GREECE

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Introduction: Bioterrorism is a form of terrorism in which terrorists deliberately release biological agents that are the means of achieving the terrorist attack. The subsequent effects on human health and healthcare systems are many and need immediate response.

Aim: To investigate the term “bioterrorism” and its forms, as well as to give an insight on the preventive and response management in Greece.

Methods: A qualitative study was conducted using a structured interview, between November and December 2021. Five Greek healthcare professionals were interviewed, after informed consent. The interviews were recorded and then decrypted into text, followed by content analysis.

Results: Two female and three male participants were involved, of which three were military nurses and two military doctors and all of them had completed higher education. Mean age of the participants was 36,8 years. The interviews revealed that almost everyone was familiar with the term bioterrorism and examples of it. Although some had been further trained in it, only two regarded their theoretical and practical training to be almost excellent and adequate. Also, only two of them knew if their organization had a response plan for a bioterrorist act, what it includes or their role in the plan. Finally, all of them had a high intension and willingness to further train and help on a bioterrorist attack.

Do you know the term bioterrorism and biological weapons? can you name it and give me an example?

Do you know if there is a plan in your organization to respond to a bioterrorist act? If there is one, do you know what it involves?

Do you know your own distinct role (from the position you hold in your organization) in the response plan?

Have you received education and training on the response plan? for bioterrorism in general ?

If yes, do you consider your training adequate and effective?

Are you willing to participate in further training or in dealing with a real bioterrorism attack?

The interview was conducted with six questions that were derived from the literature

	Gender	Age	Education	Specialty	Workplace
A	Male	32	Higher Education Institution	Military Nurse	Military Hospital
B	Female	31	Higher Education Institution	Military Doctor	Military unit Clinic
C	Female	44	Higher Education Institution	Military Nurse	Military Hospital
D	Male	48	Higher Education Institution & Masters Degree	Military Nurse	National defense office
E	Male	29	Higher Education Institution	Military Doctor	Military unit Clinic

Demographics of the participants

Conclusions: To prevent and effectively deal with a bioterrorist attack requires education, training, preparedness, coordination of actions, collaboration of authorities, surveillance, supervision and communication.