Cold Injuries and Hypothermia in Pediatric Patients

Presented by:
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Matthew Charnetski has certainly led an unusual path through life. Largely raised in hospitals with a sick mother as a child, Mr. Charnetski gravitated toward health care early on. While living in Tanzania and seeing his roommate lose his hand in a freak climbing accident, Mr. Charnetski realized that if he was going to continue living far away from things, he needed more substantial medical training and to be prepared for whatever may come. If not for personal trauma, at the very least to be proximal to trauma and illness. Finishing his second thesis for his B.A., Mr. Charnetski managed to avoid any major trauma or illness (save one very surprised botfly) and moved to Antarctica. During this time, he had the opportunity to continue his out-of-hospital medical training, eventually becoming a wilderness emergency medical technician, primary field medic for the Joint Antarctic Search and Rescue Team, and working as a field mountaineer and instructor for the Field Safety Training Program. After seven years, Mr. Charnetski returned to Iowa, continuing this trajectory to become a critical care, suburban, and rural paramedic.

Accumulating nearly 20 years of out-of-hospital health care experience, and having a true preference for the cold, Mr. Charnetski continues to search out cold regions to call home. Iowa to Antarctica, Kazakhstan to New Hampshire. Currently Mr. Charnetski has the good fortune to have landed in New Hampshire, where he is the director of simulation-based education and research at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, teaches in the Health Professions Education Master’s Program at Mass General Hospital – Institute of Health Professions, and is working on his Ph.D. in medical education through Maastricht University in the Netherlands. Mr. Charnetski still manages to find time to get out for a hike, a bike, or some sort of ski while on the New England branch of his adventure.

Objectives: Upon completion of this session, participants should be able to:

- Explore the various and sometimes unusual contexts where cold-related injuries may occur.
- Discuss emergent field, hospital and long-term treatment of cold-related injuries.
- Review the specifics of pediatric concerns and considerations surrounding cold-related injuries.

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