



RESTLESS SUPPLY CENTER

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After the Formosa Fun Coast Explosion, the usual supply line (Supply Center) also mobilized alongside the front line staff. Their first task every morning was to contact Intensive Care Unit (ICU) to estimate the need of treatment towels and various sizes of sterile gauze for the daily consumption; to be delivered to each floor for immediate wounds care. Since the explosion occurred unexpectedly, every supply center requested transfer from various hospitals in order to meet the surge in demand. During that time, every day seemed like a battle, for fear of inadequate quantity of dressing materials for use at the ICU. Fortunately, within a week, the requested quantity arrived. When my colleagues and I looked at the piles of sterile dressings, we felt a sigh of relief!

The morning of the second week after the incident, a large order of Betadine gauze was placed because of a change from management. Upon receiving the order, everyone was stressed because of the ongoing shortage of necessary supplies. With



the exception of artificial skins and the hydro fiber dressings which are mass produced, the Betadine gauze is painstaking and time consuming to make. The gauze has to be dressed manually to apply a layer of Betadine ointment. The entire department was hectic that day. Immediately, we procured large quantity of gauze from the warehouse, and secured large containers to hold all the gauze. Our colleagues were dispersed to locate suitable stainless steel containers from local hardware stores prior to duty.



After solving an immediate problem, what about tomorrow? Wound care is continuous nonstop. Although we purchased many large containers, we still fear the unknown. That same night, we started planning by testing different sizes and shapes of Betadine gauze, running simulation for wounds care. We even tried the Betadine gauze on each other to ensure the appropriate ointment quantity for the dressing.

By the time I was home to finish a shower, it was already 11:30 PM. I still worried whether we would have enough quantity of Betadine gauze. Because we purchased all the appropriate containers from local hardware stores, my family suggested we go



to nearby 24 hour supermarkets. I immediately jump on it and purchased additional containers. By the time I went to bed, it was already 1AM. In a few hours, I had to report to duty; however, I felt at ease and could finally sleep peacefully.

Recalling my past experience in post plastic surgery care and accompanying patients for recovery, this particular experience touched me the most. The accident led to a large amount of patients simultaneously in need of treatment. Regardless of people in the forefront or the supply line, I saw the efforts of all interdisciplinary teams to provide the best effective medical care. I pray for speedy recovery of all the patients.