

ELECTIVE (SSC5b) REPORT (1200 words)

A report that addresses the above four objectives should be written below. Your Elective supervisor will assess this.

What is the biggest reasons for accident and emergency attendance in malta and how does this compare to the uk?

In my three week placement I managed to see a large variety of diseases . Some of the most common was chest pain, falls and car crashes. Due to it being the main hospital for the entire island there is a wide variety of presentations such as things you would see in mainly a dgh setting and also presentations you would see in a specialist trauma setting. Another important feature of malta is its frank lack of public health and safety rules. There were numerous falls from ledges and balconies in my time in malta. There was also frequent car crashes and even a bus crash. Road safety rules are fairly relaxed in malta leading to more injuries of this nature.

How does the organisational structure of the a+e department compare with the uk?

There are many similarities to the structure of the department and the uk. Even the design of the department has been noted to be incredibly similar to certain uk a+e departments. One major difference is that consultants have a much more hands on approach in malta and are much more of an authority figure in malta and are entirely in charge of the ward. One of the main reasons for this is probably because the nurses double up as the paramedics meaning they are in the wards less. I'm concerned to the junior doctors they mainly do the initial clerking of the patients. And blood tests and tend to have less responsibility than junior doctors in the uk. This could be due to the fact Maltese medical students aren't allowed in the accident and emergency department and therefore the first experience they get of a+ e is as a junior doctor.

What are the main preventable causes of morbidity and mortality in malta and how can one prevent this.

One of the main preventable causes of death is ischemic heart disease. This is more prominent in malta over a lot of countries including neighbouring countries such as Italy and Spain . There are high rates of obesity and smoking in malta which need to be addressed by the public health service in order to decrease the trend. A better understanding of smoking health effects will also be useful in malta. Another factor that could prevent a lot of deaths is better road infrastructure and more of an emphasis on health and safety which is currently lacking in malta.