

The Massive Death Toll From Turkey's Earthquake, and very Special Thanks to Foreign and Domestic Rescue Teams and Health Workers

EDITORIAL

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Dear Reader,

Unfortunately, we are starting our April issue with our hearts broken, with the sadness of a very tragic event for our country and the world.

Turkey was shaken by two very large earthquakes, just 9 hours apart, on Monday, February 6, 2023. The first earthquake, with a magnitude of 7.7 occurred in Kahramanmaraş, Pazarcık district at 04:17. While the earthquake victims were in panic and the search and rescue operations were just started, a second big earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 occurred in Elbistan at 13.24, about 100 kilometers north of the first earthquake.

Officials announced that the Turkey-Syria earthquakes released 250 times more energy compared to the 6.2 earthquake that struck central Italy in 2016, killing nearly 300 people. Hundreds of buildings that were damaged in the first earthquake, collapsed with the second earthquake. Unfortunately, at the time of the second earthquake some of the survivors were trying to save their belongings from their homes. Earthquakes, had a wide impact. 11 provinces, districts and villages were seriously affected by the earthquake. According to official figures, 18.200 multi-storey buildings were destroyed. Immediately after the earthquake, apart from our own rescue teams and civilian volunteers, hundreds of search and rescue teams from 53 countries, trying to reach as fast as possible from a wide geography from Mexico to New Zealand, reached the region with rescue dogs and equipment, and more than 80.000 people were rescued under the rubble. A total of 77 field hospitals, including 22 field hospitals from 19 different countries, were established in earthquake zones, and 140.000 domestic and foreign health personnel have provided and are still providing health services.

In the region, where the building stock was quite old and the construction was uneven, the earthquakes left behind a casualty, at least of around 45.000 Turkish citizens and 5000 immigrants, mainly Syrian nationals, living in the region. Additionally 150,000 injured, thousands of amputees, orphans and millions of homeless and unemployed. Unfortunately, even weeks after the earthquake, corpses are still being found under the rubble. At least 94 of our physicians who were living and working in the region lost their lives and some of our physicians are still missing.

On behalf of our community, while we would like to convey our condolences to the thousands of families who lost their loved ones, we would also like to express our endless gratitude to the local and foreign team of more than 250.000 people working in the search, rescue and rescue of the injured, and to all the nations who provided material and moral support. We hope that this earthquake will be a final lesson for our country, which is an active earthquake zone, in building earthquake-safe cities and housing, a lesson that has not been learned since the 1939 Erzincan earthquake. Undoubtedly, some of the wounds of these earthquakes will never be healed, our hope is that the wounds that can be healed will be healed as soon as possible. For these purposes, the Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism has been working with all its members from the first day and will continue to work with determination.

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Going back to our April issue, in this issue, besides nice original articles and two different case reports you will find a detailed invited review by our esteemed Diabetologist, Prof. İlhan Satman on MODY.

I would like to end my words with this question that has been stuck in our minds. We do not know when an earthquake may occur, but we

know what an earthquake can cause. So, if we know what we should do against a possible earthquake since the 1939 Erzincan earthquake, why don't we do it?

Best Wishes,
Prof. Murat Faik Erdoğan
Editor-in-Chief