

EDİTÖRE MEKTUP LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Workshop on Secondary Prevention of Myocardial Infarction and Stroke and Management of Cardiovascular Risk

Dear Editor,

I would like to share information on the Workshop on Secondary Prevention of Myocardial Infarction and Stroke and Management of Cardiovascular Risk which has been recently held in Ankara, Turkey, 18-19 August, 2003.

The objectives of the workshop were two-fold. Firstly, there were discussions on data compiled in the situation analysis and conclusion of Phase I of the WHO PREMISE Study, as well as the formulation and design of strategies for Phase II of the Study in Turkey. The WHO CVD-Risk Assessment and Management Package, particularly designed to promote comprehensive management of cardiovascular risk in low-resource settings, were presented and discussed.

From listed strategic options, participants prioritised the most feasible and necessary issues needing urgent attention and outlined the following action plan to be implemented in the short-term (2003-2004)

1. Establish a model of continuous medical education for physician health care providers in Eskişehir

These activities are directly related to PREMISE Phase II and will be co-ordinated by the Cardiology Department of the Osmangazi University and PREMISE team in Eskişehir. The training programme will be implemented on a pilot basis for one year. The pilot project will be evaluated after one year and the impact assessed with a view to gradual extension of the project in other areas of Turkey.

The Ministry of Health committed that they will ensure a nation-wide roll-out of the continuous medical education programme if a convincing result can be demonstrated in Eskişehir.

2. Establish a task force for developing evidence-based recommendations for prevention and control of cardiovascular diseases in Turkey.

The Ministry of Health, in liaison with WHO's country office and Cardiology Department of the Osmangazi University, will co-ordinate the establishment and the activities of the Task Force. The following institutions and professional associations were proposed as some of the potential members of the Task Force:

Turkish Medical Association
Pharmaceutical Association
Osmangazi University
Turkish Diabetic Association
Turkish Neurological Association
Turkish Cerebrovascular Society
Turkish Society of Nephrology
Turkish Heart Foundation
Turkish General Practitioners Association
Turkish Dieticians Association
Turkish Public Health Association
Turkish Hypertension and Atherosclerosis Society
Turkish Metabolic Syndrome Society

The Ministry of Health will contact the above listed institutions and officially invite them to join the Task Force.

The evidence-based document on secondary prevention which will be provided by WHO will be translated and circulated among the members of the Task Force for their comments and for adaptation to the local context.

The Ministry of Health will take the responsibility for printing and disseminating the document in the medical community.

3. Initiating a pilot programme of patient education through local TV channel in Eskişehir.

The programme will be developed by the Department of Cardiology of Osmangazi University in collaboration with WHO. It will constitute of short educa-

tional messages presented monthly during the prime air hours for the duration of three months. After the completion of pilot programme, population's awareness of the healthy lifestyle and major cardiovascular risks will be evaluated and compared to the baseline data available from the phase I of PREMISE study.

Participants of the Workshop agreed on concrete timelines and committed full support to the action plan adopted by the Workshop. It was agreed that the proceedings of the Workshop would be published in the local peer reviewed journal as an editorial from Professor Bilgin Timuralp.

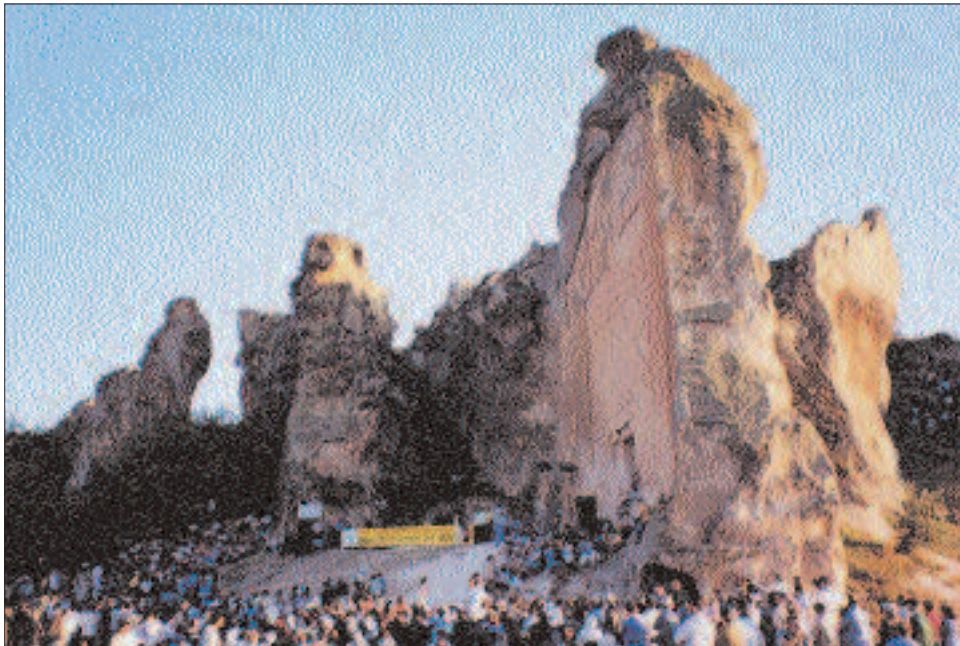
WHO's role:

- Provide the Ministry of Health with the document on evidence-based recommendations for secondary prevention for CVD.
- In liaison with the Regional Office, assistance to

be provided for the document to be translated into Turkish language and to be adapted to the requirements of Turkey. The Task Force will be co-ordinated by the Ministry of Health.

- Assist in developing curricula and tools for continuing medical education for training and updating healthcare providers in evidence-based secondary prevention.
- Provide technical assistance to conduct Phase II of the PREMISE project in Eskişehir, particularly to improve practice patterns of doctors and knowledge related to secondary prevention of myocardial infarction and stroke in patients.

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