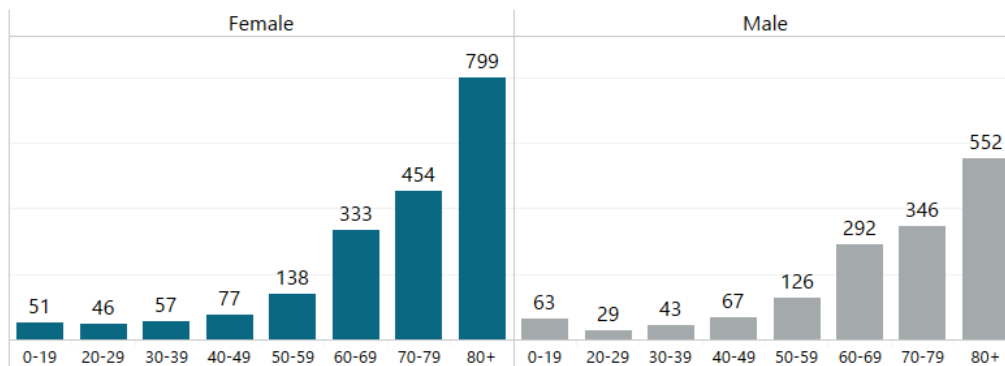


Data Update

Falls are the second most common dispatch complaint for Dane County EMS agencies. As seen here, fall patients are most commonly female, with the highest number of patients age 80 and above. The same holds true for male patients. The highest number of falls occur between 08:00 and 11:59, and single family homes are the most common location for fall injuries.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
00:00-03:59	59	49	52	41	44	44	45
04:00-07:59	53	70	47	66	70	54	55
08:00-11:59	97	125	141	107	99	135	82
12:00-15:59	81	110	110	133	103	115	108
16:00-19:59	109	93	98	97	103	118	107
20:00-23:59	63	56	75	66	52	82	81



Viz Quiz

- 33 year-old male working on construction site felt like something got in his eye.
- Endorses blurred vision and pain in eye with blinking.
- What is the diagnosis? What is the most appropriate field management?

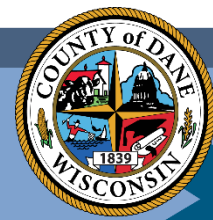


Image courtesy of: <https://coreem.net/core/traumatic-ocular-injuries/>



August Follow-Up

- Could be due to COVID-19 Infection or “COVID Toes”
- Painful red or purple lesions on toes similar to chilblains
- May appear in mild or otherwise asymptomatic individuals, some weeks after acute infection
- Unclear if this is more consistent with vasculitis or micro-emboli, but does appear to have correlation with COVID-19 infections.



Ask the Doc

The Valsalva maneuver is within the scope of practice of AEMTs and paramedics in the updated Wisconsin scope of practice. What is the Valsalva maneuver and how can it impact our care in the field?

In patients that present in symptomatic and stable, regular, narrow complex tachycardia (Supraventricular Tachycardia - SVT), vagal maneuvers are recommended as the initial treatment to help with cardioversion. A vagal maneuver is a term used to describe any physical intervention that results in stimulation of the 10th cranial nerve (vagus nerve), which in turn can lead to slowing of the heart rate in the setting of SVT. One such maneuver, the Valsalva maneuver, is performed by having a patient blow into a syringe whilst lying down (face up) for 15 seconds. This generates increased pressure within the chest cavity and triggers a slowing of heart rate that may stop the abnormal rhythm. The success rate of the Valsalva maneuver alone is documented at

20-55%. The next option for patients who still remain in SVT is intravenous adenosine. Adenosine briefly stops all conduction through the AV node, which may cause patients to feel a sense of doom or like they are about to die. If the patient is or becomes unstable, cardioversion is recommended as first line therapy.

A slightly modified Valsalva, which supports increasing venous return and vagal stimulation by laying patients supine and elevating their legs, may increase the rate of conversion and has been demonstrated to be simple, safe, and cost effective. A great video demonstrating this can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DIRiOA_OsA. Historically, another vagal maneuver utilized was carotid sinus massage – which is no longer recommended as first line due to a low (but serious) risk of neurologic side effects. It is not in current protocols.

<https://rebelem.com/the-revert-trial-a-modified-valsalva-maneuver-to-convert-svt/>
https://www.cochrane.org/CD009502/VASC_the-effectiveness-of-the-valsalva-manoeuve-for-stopping-an-abnormal-heart-rhythm

Have a question you want answered or just an idea for a topic? Email us at dcems@countyofdane.com!

Spotlight

A calendar for training opportunities is now available on the Dane County EMS website! This includes courses hosted by the county, agencies, and hospitals. You can access this calendar by going to em.countyofdane.com/ems/training and clicking Dane County EMS Training Calendar.

Upcoming Events and Training

9/9, 1-5 pm: DCEMS Skills Competency Proctor Training
Register through your Director or Training Director

9/16, 6-10 pm: SSM Health Sim Training
Register at <http://bit.ly/DCEMSimulation>

9/17, 6:30-10:30 pm: SSM Health Monthly Training – Respiratory Emergencies
Register at <http://bit.ly/ssmemstraining>

9/19, 8 am: DCEMS EVOC Driving Range
Register through your Director or Training Director

9/24, 2-6 pm: SSM Health Sim Training
Register at <http://bit.ly/DCEMSimulation>

9/30, 6-10 pm: DCEMS Skills Competency Proctor Training
Register through your Director or Training Director

- Meet Jeremy Delao
- Enjoys running, playing sports, going to the gym, being in the sun, watching movies and spending time with good friends.
- Member of our SWIPST (Southern Wisconsin Peer Support Team) and acts as a CTO/mentor for new and training call-takers and dispatchers.
- Graduated from UW-Madison with a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology and Spanish.

Open Mic

