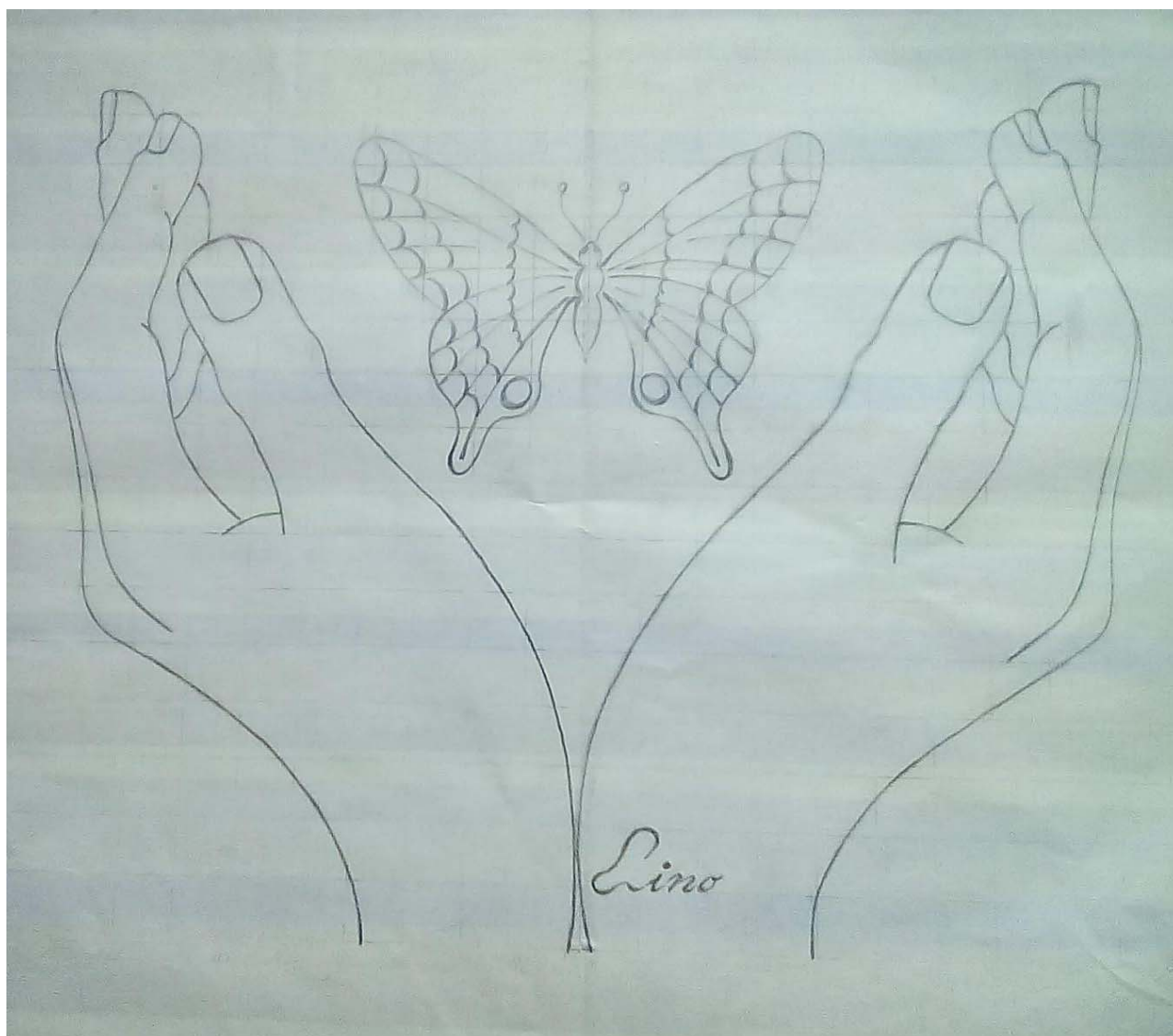


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The PASSIM project: Medical and nursing aspects.

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KEY-WORDS: migrants, PASSIM Project, First Assistance

ABSTRACT

Background: The Italian Relief Corps of the Order of Malta (CISOM) was officially founded on 24 June 1970, as a civil volunteer corps of the Association of Italian Knights of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (ACISMOM). It is a foundation that falls under Maltese law with the aim of civil, social, healthcare, humanitarian protection and instrumental cooperation with the Sovereign Order of Malta. Since 2008, CISOM has been an active part of saving human lives in the Mediterranean Sea, specifically in the Strait of Sicily with spot in Lampedusa, with doctors and nurses present on board of boats belonging to the Coast Guard, the Financial Police and the Italian Navy, engaged in assistance to migrants. **AIM:** The aim of our study is to evaluate the assistance provided at sea by patrol boat and by helicopter rescue in the Strait of Sicily, for the purpose of redefine it in light of the needs related to the flow of migrants in the three-year period 2020-2023. **MATERIALS and METHODS:** Our study examines the reports relating to 808 subjects of all ages who migrated from Libya crossing the Strait of Sicily. All the subjects travelled on makeshift vessels and were assisted at sea by the ships of the Port Authority or the Financial Police and transported to the port of Lampedusa or transferred by air ambulance based on the clinical severity and the prevailing weather conditions. All patients were provided with emergency or urgent care and assisted on the basis of their clinical conditions at the time of rescue by the patrol boats. **RESULTS:** From the data analyzed, the time frame from autumn to winter is mainly characterized by cases of hypothermia and an overall higher risk of drowning. Meanwhile, the summer period which is typically characterized by an exponential increase in the number of migrants who reach the coasts of Lampedusa, is linked to a higher number of cases of dehydration. Further statistically significant variations derive from the analysis of data on the clinical severity and subsequent clinical stabilization of the subjects transported by air ambulance. **DISCUSSION and CONCLUSION:** This study, with reference to the three-year period 2020-2023, allowed us to emphasize the importance of a detailed analysis of assistance operations at sea, in order to optimize resources and preventively alert the relevant hospital centers in the area. The data deriving from the air rescue operations highlighted a significant variation in the stabilization of the clinical picture with initial clinical severity ranging

between 7 and 10 points on a scale from 0 to 10. The data resulting from our study will be included in the theoretical and practical training program for medical and nursing staff for the year 2024. For this reason, the tables and figures relating to the data reported in the text are attached.

Tables

YEAR 2020	PEARSON	PROBABILITY	
Men vs Women (10 M vs 1 W)	0,930	P < 0,001 *	M > F
Contused Lacerated Woundes (CLW) (67 M vs 7 W)	0,922	P < 0,001 *	traumatic wounds and beating injuries
Hypothermia Oct-Mar (198 M vs 19 W)	-0,226	P = 0,480	negative correlation but not significant
Hypothermia Apr-Sept (n.a.)	0	P > 0,050	no correlation
Dehydration Oct-Mar (8 M vs 1 W)	-0,120	P = 0,719	negative correlation but not significant
Dehydration Apr-Sept (200 M vs 21 W)	0,605	P = 0,037 *	significant positive correlation
Chemical Burns (Hydrocarbons) (8 M vs 1 W)	0,525	P = 0,080	positive correlation but not significant
Fractures (8 M vs 1 W)	0,250	P = 0,434	positive correlation but not significant
Drowning (8 M vs 1 W)	0,418	P = 0,176	positive correlation but not significant
Ongoing Pregnancies (28 W)	-0,125	P = 0,699	negative correlation but not significant

Tab. 1: Descriptive representation of the main pathologies found in migrants assisted in 2020

YEAR 2023	PEARSON	PROBABILITY	
Men vs Women	0,980	P < 0,001 *	M > F
CLWs	0,962	P < 0,001 *	traumatic wounds and beating injuries
Dehydration Apr-Sept	0,655	P = 0,019 *	significant positive correlation

Tab 2: Correlation analysis carried out by distinguishing by pathology

	BASE	CONTROL	PROBABILITY
Clinical Severity (0-10)	8,667 ± 1,153	6,500 ± 2,153	P = 0,007 *
Clinical Stability (0-10)	3,917 ± 0,793	8,500 ± 0,674	P < 0,001 *

Tab 3: Descriptive analysis of clinical severity and clinical stabilization during helicopter transport.

Figures

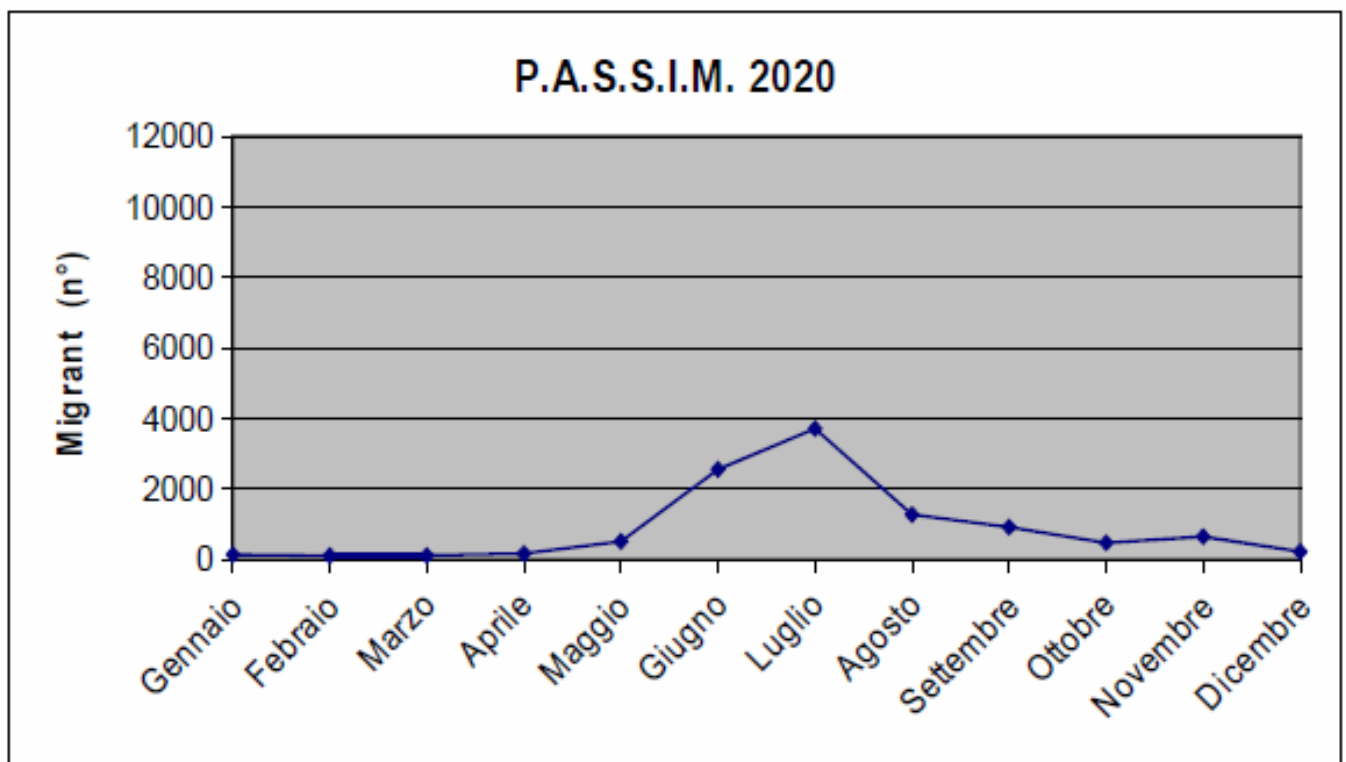


Figure 1: Graphic representation of the number of migrants assisted in 2020

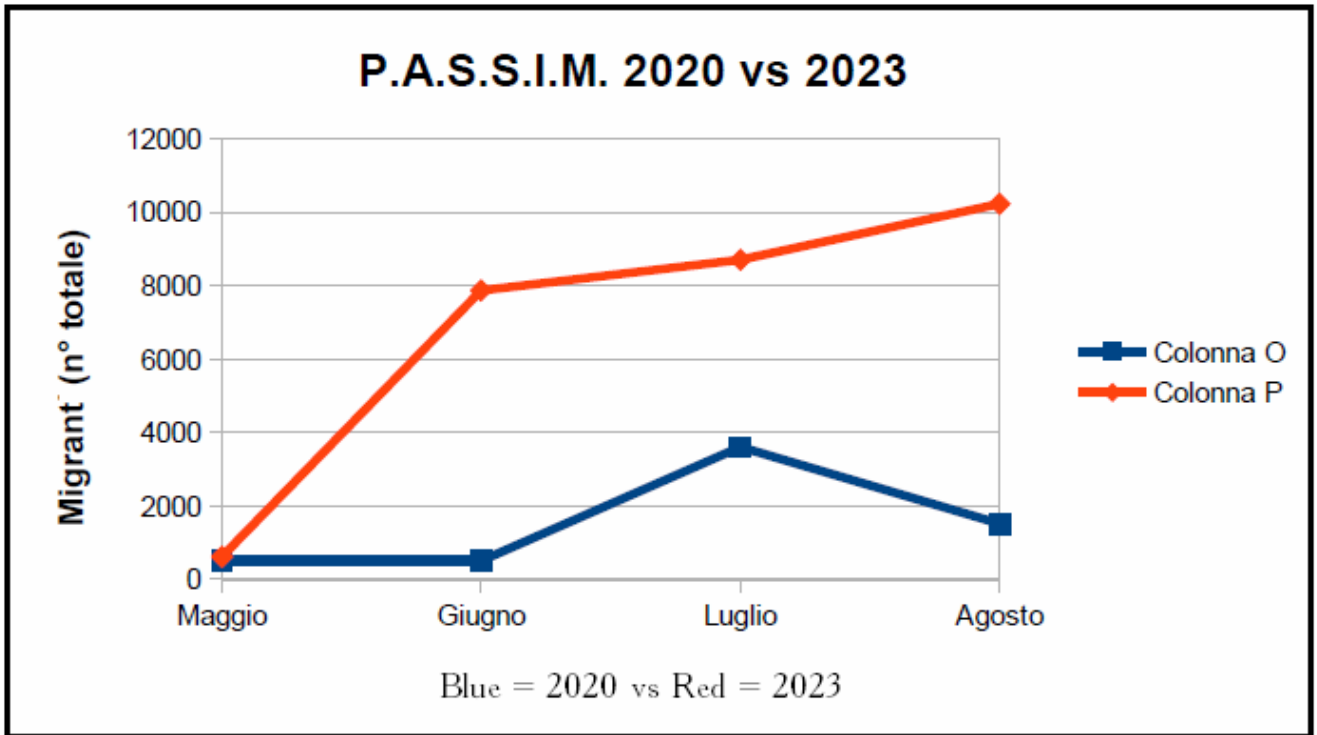


Figure 2: Graphic representation of the number of migrants assisted in 2020 vs 2023

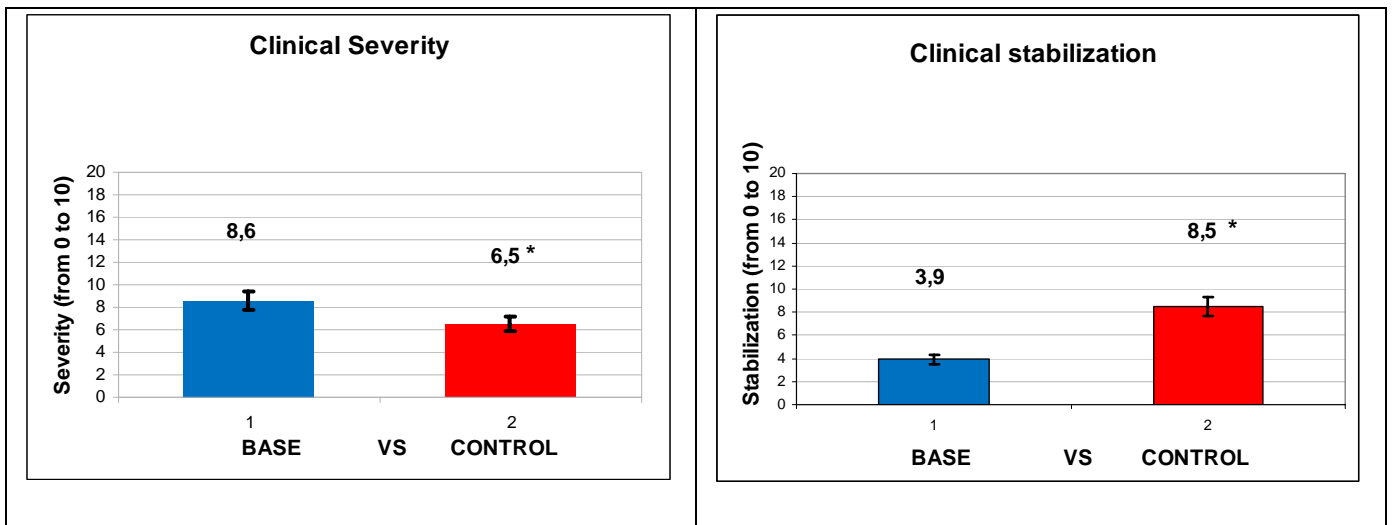


Figure 3a-3b: Graphical representation of clinical severity and clinical stabilization. $P < 0,050$.

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