

**“Enhancing Interprofessional  
Collaboration and Learning for  
Strengthening Primary Health Care”**

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## TUFH 2021 ABSTRACTS

Title	AIRPORT PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: IS IT IMPORTANT?
Type	Oral Presentation <i>What can we learn from your Primary Health Care Practice and Experiences?</i>
1st Author	AHMED HASSAN
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Country	SAUDI ARABIA
Abstract N <sup>o</sup>	TUFH762
Content	<p>In 1970, the number of air travelers globally was about 300 million, while in 2019, the number exceeded four billion. Air travel has its impacts on health physiologically. Therefore, the growing number of elderly and chronically ill passengers and the emergence of some pandemics, recently COVID-19, have magnified the importance of healthcare at airports. Primary health care (PHC) at airports has not appeared recently, and researches have shown its significance and effectiveness. Clinics, health centers, or even health teams at airports provide medical services to passengers, airport employees, and others. They respond to general medical conditions and emergencies, whether in clinics, airport lounges, or even airplanes. Most of the visitors to clinics are acute minor medical conditions. The bulk of which are respiratory conditions, headache, and gastrointestinal disorders. Emergency cases represent a small percentage, but they are severe and require immediate intervention, such as Myocardial Infarction. Doctors and nurses can handle around 98% of visitors without requiring a referral. Critically ill patients are transferred to the nearest hospital with fundamental management. General Practitioner or Family Physician roles in these clinics are rising. Their role is not limited to providing medical service but extends to involve health education, consultation, counseling, vaccination, fitness assessment, occupational services, and more. Travel Medicine or Aviation Medicine has become a separate discipline, but it's still not widespread and not well established in the Universities and Specialization Boards. Airport health clinics/centers have an efficient role in providing high-quality PHC services and reducing preventable consequences.</p>