

Burden of patients with traumatic injuries admitted to Teaching Hospital Karapitiya

Somarathna KCS¹, Gamage MWK¹, Lenora RSJ²

¹*BSc Nursing Degree Programme, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna.*

²*Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ruhuna.*

Introduction

Trauma is a leading cause of hospitalization. Epidemiology of injuries, risk factors and burden caused by them have not been adequately studied in Sri Lanka.

Aim

To study the incidence of various types of injuries, their burden on hospital and the families.

Methods

All patients admitted with trauma to the trauma unit, Teaching Hospital Karapitiya, during four consecutive Wednesdays and a weekend were included (n= 200). An investigator administered questionnaire was used to collect data.

Results

One hundred and forty five out of 200 admissions were males. Admissions due to unintentional injuries were 169 and due to intentional injuries were 31 (30 due to interpersonal violence, 01 self-inflicted injury). Casualties admitted with unintentional injuries were victims of Road Traffic Accidents (RTAs) (n=75, 37.5%), domestic accidents (n=50, 25%), workplace accidents (n=18, 9%), leisure time accidents (n=14, 7%) and others (n= 12, 6%). Seventy five of unintentional injuries (44.4%) were caused by falls. Out of the RTA casualties 41 (61.2%) were motorcycle riders and 15 (24.5%) were casualties due to impact with motorcycles. Sixty four percent of RTA victims were drivers (n=48). Most common age group of RTA was 16 – 30 years. Domestic injuries were more common among individuals below 15 years and above 60 years. Site of injuries due to RTAs included limb injuries (n=59), head injuries (n=29) and trunk injuries (n=17). More than 25% of admissions received IV antibiotics. Eighty percent individuals needed X-ray & 15.5% patients underwent CT scans. When the family economic burden due to injuries and hospital stay was calculated, it was more than Rs. 10,500/= in 10.5% and between Rs. 7,000/= and 10,500/= in 8.5%.

Conclusions

Traumatic injuries cause a large economic burden on the hospital and the families of the victims. It confirms the requirement of preventive measures of injuries by introducing strict rules especially in usage of roads and improving knowledge among high risk groups.