

A study on the pattern of injuries admitted to the accident and emergency service, National Hospital of Sri Lanka

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Traumatic injuries are a leading cause of hospitalization and mortality in Sri Lanka. National Hospital of Sri Lanka (NHSL) receives trauma patients from the entire country. Road Traffic Accidents (RTA) are a primary cause of trauma. This study reports the pattern of injuries admitted to the NHSL. This is a descriptive cross-sectional study. The patients admitted to the NHSL with fractures, neurotrauma, vascular injury, abdominal and other injuries were included. Data on date and time of admission, demography, place / site of incident, date / time of incident, mechanism of injury, type of vehicle involved (if RTA) and type of injuries were collected. Incomplete data were excluded. A total number of 160 were included of which 140 (87.5%) were males and 20 (12.5%) were females. Mean age of the patients was 39.6 (08-88) years. Causes of injury were; RTA 73 (45.6%), accidental slip and fall 26 (16.2%), fall from height 13 (8.1%), assault 10 (6%), self-inflicted injuries 9 (5.6%), occupational injuries 6 (3.7%) and sports injuries. The type of vehicle involved in RTA was motor bike in 47 (64.3%), three-wheeler in 9 (12.3%), bicycles in 3 (4.1%), bus in 3% and others 11 (15%). Among the patients, 81 (41%) had fractures, 36 (16.5%) neurotrauma, 32 (15%) vascular injuries, and 27 (12.4%) thoraco-abdominal injuries. 136 (83.7%) underwent interventions and 26 (16.3%) were managed non-operatively. This study shows that early middle aged (39.6 years) males are the highest number of trauma admission to the NHSL. Motor bikes are the predominant vehicle involved with RTA (64.3%) associated injuries. This indicated that a strict policy on motor bike traffic control should be implemented.

Keywords: *Pattern of injuries, Trauma, Road Traffic Accident, National Hospital of Sri Lanka (NHSL)*