

The Spectrum of Lower Limb Injuries in Road Traffic Accidents Presenting at A Tertiary Care Hospital

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Abstract

Background: Road traffic accidents are one of the major hazards of modern existence. The proliferation of motor vehicles and the rapid explosion of the population have increased the incidence of traffic accident injuries in most modern countries. A large part of the injuries in such cases is confined to the lower limbs. **Methods:** The present study was carried out in patients admitted to a tertiary care hospital with road traffic accidents involving the lower limbs over a period of six months. The age distribution and range of injuries in this population were studied and analyzed. **Result:** The study showed that traffic injuries occur with greater frequency in young age groups (20 – 40 years) and in males, with a second surge of cases in persons over 50 years of age. The injuries range from soft tissue injuries consisting of minor cuts and bruises to bony injuries. **Conclusion:** The commonest skeletal injuries occur in the leg with fractures of the tibia and fibula, followed by injuries to the foot. Knowledge of the age range and spectrum of injuries will help hospital administrators and trauma care specialists to be better equipped to manage traffic accident injuries.