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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

A Two-Year Prospective Study of the Mechanisms and Patterns of Limb Injury in Multiply Injured Patients at UNIOSUN Teaching Hospital, Osogbo, Nigeria

Étude prospective de deux ans sur les mécanismes et les modèles de blessures aux membres chez les patients polytraumatisés à l'Hôpital Universitaire UNIOSUN, Osogbo, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Multiple injured patients are patients who sustained injury to more than one system in the body, while a polytraumatized patient is the one who sustained injury to two or more regions of a system in the body.

Better patient outcomes and effective management depend on an understanding of the patterns and characteristics of limb injuries in the multiply injured individuals. This is especially important in places with little resources, like Southwestern Nigeria, where trauma is common and it's important to make the best use of the few available medical resources. Therefore, the aim of this research is to determine the common aetiology that led to various limb injuries in the multiple injured patients at UNIOSUN Teaching Hospital, Osogbo, Osun state.

METHODOLOGY: A prospective observational design was employed, involving multiple injured patients admitted to UNIOSUN Teaching Hospital from May 1st, 2022 to April 30th, 2024. Data collection includes demographic information, aetiology of the injury and type of injury sustained. SPSS Version 20 was employed to determine the frequency and distribution of data. Descriptive analysis revealed demographic characteristics, patterns of limb injury, highlighting the common causes, prevalence of different types of limb injuries, distribution of affected limbs and sides in the multiply injured patients.

RESULT: The study found a higher representation of males in road traffic accidents, with a diverse age group. Most participants were passengers or pedestrians, with 71.4% of injuries being closed. Most participants did not use seat belts and were not seated.

CONCLUSION: This study demonstrated that limb injuries from road traffic accidents predominantly affected young adult males, with motorcycle crashes being the leading cause. Fractures, especially of the lower limbs, were the most common injury types, and surgical intervention was frequently required. These findings show the significant burden of limb trauma managed at UNIOSUN Teaching Hospital and emphasize the demographic and clinical patterns associated with such injuries. **WAJM 2025; 42 (4): 303-310**

KEYWORDS: Multiple injury, Limb injury, Open fracture, Closed fracture, Traffic Accidents

RÉSUMÉ

CONTEXTE: Les patients polytraumatisés sont ceux qui ont subi des blessures touchant plusieurs systèmes corporels, tandis qu'un patient polytraumatisé au sens strict est celui qui a subi des lésions dans deux régions ou plus d'un même système.

Une meilleure prise en charge et des résultats cliniques optimaux dépendent de la compréhension des modèles et des caractéristiques des blessures aux membres chez ces patients. Cela est particulièrement crucial dans les régions à faibles ressources comme le sud-ouest du Nigeria, où les traumatismes sont fréquents et où il est essentiel d'optimiser l'utilisation des ressources médicales limitées. Cette étude vise donc à identifier les causes les plus courantes des blessures aux membres chez les patients polytraumatisés admis à l'Hôpital Universitaire UNIOSUN, Osogbo, État d'Osun.

MÉTHODOLOGIE: Une étude prospective d'observation a été menée auprès des patients polytraumatisés admis entre le 1er mai 2022 et le 30 avril 2024. Les données recueillies incluent les informations démographiques, l'étiologie des blessures et le type de traumatisme subi. Le logiciel SPSS version 20 a été utilisé pour analyser la fréquence et la distribution des données. L'analyse descriptive a permis de mettre en évidence les caractéristiques démographiques, les modèles de blessures aux membres, les causes fréquentes, la prévalence des différents types de blessures, ainsi que la distribution des membres et des côtés affectés.

RÉSULTATS: L'étude a révélé une prédominance masculine dans les accidents de la route, avec une large diversité d'âges. La majorité des participants étaient des passagers ou des piétons, et 71,4 % des blessures étaient fermées. La plupart ne portaient pas de ceinture de sécurité et n'étaient pas assis correctement.

CONCLUSION: Cette étude montre que les blessures aux membres causées par les accidents de la route touchent principalement les jeunes hommes adultes, les accidents de moto étant la cause principale. Les fractures, en particulier celles des membres inférieurs, étaient les types de blessures les plus fréquents, nécessitant souvent une intervention chirurgicale. Ces résultats soulignent la lourde charge des traumatismes gérés à l'Hôpital Universitaire UNIOSUN et mettent en lumière les profils démographiques et cliniques associés à ces blessures.

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MOTS-CLÉS: Polytraumatisme, Blessure aux membres, Fracture ouverte, Fracture fermée, Accidents de la route

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