

Abstract

Profile of automobile related accidents encountered at District General Hospital Gampaha

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Abstract**Background**

Automobile related injuries and deaths are a major problem in Sri Lanka. This study was conducted to describe the nature of automobile related accidents encountered at District General Hospital (DGH) Gampaha.

Methods

This is a cross sectional study done at the Out Patient Department of the DGH, Gampaha. All the patients coming with automobile related accidents on randomly selected days were studied. Data were analyzed and presented in cross tabulations and percentages.

Results

Of 448 automobile related accidents, 71% involved males. Majority of patients (41%) belonged to the age group 20 to 40 years and most of the accidents took place between 4pm to 8pm (27%) and 6 am to 10 am (22%). Fifty percent of the accidents were motorbikes related and another 12% were three wheeler related. Fifty percent of the drivers and riders were injured and there were 23% passenger and 22% pedestrian victims. Eleven percent of motorcyclist did not wear helmets and 12% of the patients were under the influence of alcohol. Ninety two percent of the patients did not receive first aid treatment and 70% of patients were transferred to hospital by three wheelers. Nineteen percent presented with loss of consciousness, 16% had fractures and 5% had internal injuries. Twenty nine percent of patients were discharged from Primary care unit, 58% admitted to ward, 5% transferred to specialized care units and 8% left the hospital.

Conclusions


High risk groups include 20-40 years, males, and motor cyclists with peak incidence during 6-10 am and 4-8 pm. This study highlighted the inadequacy of first aid treatment and requirement of proper transportation of victims.

Key words: Automobile; Accidents; Sri Lanka

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