

# Abstract

## Introduction

Injuries are mainly categorized as unintentional and intentional according to the intent of causative agent. Childhood unintentional injuries are a leading cause of preventable morbidity and mortality among all age groups worldwide. The physical and psychological impact on children is immense with the economical burden on the care givers. Hence its of utmost importance to carry out studies to assess the burden and pattern of injury for launching of effective control programmes.

## Objective

To determine the childhood unintentional injury pattern, socio-demographic and related factors and the knowledge about injury prevention among caregivers of children admitted at Lady Ridgeway Hospital.

## Methodology

A hospital based descriptive cross sectional study was carried out among children admitted to hospital following an unintentional injury In August- September 2007. A total of 425 cases were selected from consecutive sampling method. Data collection tool was an interviewer administered questionnaire with a check list.

## Results

The commonest mechanism of injury was falls (n=211; 49.6%) followed by RTA and Burn injury with 13.6% & 9.6% respectively. Most children had contusions (n=123; 21.1%) while abrasions & contusions were seen among 16% in each. But 87.8% (n=373) of the children suffered only a single injury, and 411 (96.7%) were the only victim, as well as 92.9% (n=395) had to undergo any type of invasive procedure following the event. Head injury was the frequently 179 (31.7%) injured part of body followed by the limb injuries. (26%) Nearly 76% (93/22) of the victims were discharged within 3 days of admissions while injury following RTA & burns had to stay for longer periods.

Younger the child, more frequent were the injuries, (n=173; 40.7%) but at 10-12 years only 12% were injured (n=51), the mean age of children admitted was 5.16 years. Male to female ratio was 1.6:1 with significant association ( $p < 0.05$ ) with age, sex and mechanism of injury. Children of social class 4 was seen 40.9% (40.9%) & the mother was unemployed among 86.5% (n=365) children. Only about 11.5% mothers & fathers in each had an education less than grade 5.

64% (n=271) of the injuries were in home accident category with living room & garden being the commonest place in and around the house. (n=78; 29.3%) Out of those that occurred outside the home 60% (n=91) were road traffic accidents. There were 18.4% (n=78) each on Monday's & Tuesday's with maximum incidents occurring between 12hrs- 18hrs. (n=191; 45.3%) Most of the children (n=331 87.1%) got injured while being under the supervision of a caregiver. In this sample of children 88% were from families of 1 or 2 children.

Media and relatives were the common source of information (73.2%). The knowledge of caregivers about injury was assessed using a score & 95% (n=403) of the respondents showed a score of more than 6 marks.

## Conclusions

Male child is more prone to get injured than female. Younger the child incidence of injury is high. Most of the events occur at home while under the supervision of a caregiver. Home injuries are commoner than those occurring outside while most resulted during the evening. The knowledge of caregivers regarding unintentional injury is satisfactory though the frequency of injury among children is high.