

ABSTRACT

Introduction

Deaths due to trauma in Sri Lanka is in rising trend, where road traffic accidents is a major contributing cause of injuries and premature deaths. Road Traffic accidents had killed 2816 in 2015. Motorcycles are an important and popular means of transport in developing countries. Thus, motorcyclists are more vulnerable to trauma compared with other vehicles, due to inherent structural features to gain agility at the expense of safety.

Objectives

Objective was to assess the characteristics of risk factors, health response and morbidity and outcome of motor-cyclist road traffic accident victims admitted to Teaching hospital Kandy.

Methods

A cross sectional descriptive study was carried out in Teaching hospital- Kandy including motorcyclist road traffic accident victims admitted from August 2018 to December 2018. Consecutive sample of 202 patients was achieved from all direct and transfer admissions. Data was collected using pretested interviewer administered questionnaire. Ethical clearance was obtained from Ethics review committee- Teaching Hospital-Kandy. Statistical analysis was done using SPSS version 20. Frequency distributions and percentages were computed for all the variables.

Results

Findings of the study showed that motorcyclists had mean age of 30 ± 11 years. Male to female ratio was 10.2:1. Median monthly income was 30,000 Rs (IQR 16875-45000 Rs). These accidents were caused by Collision of motorcycle to vehicle 50% (n=101), motorcycle to pedestrian 7.4% (n=15), motorcycle to road structures or slipped on the road 34.5% (n=69). Mean speed was 39 ± 16 km/h. The commonest motorcycle was scooter type (16.3%). Most of the accidents had occurred in first 10 years following production of motorcycle (79.7%) and 56.9% were serviced within one month. Road was adequately visible for 64.9% of motorcyclists, 66.8% occurred in dry weather condition and 80.7% on carpeted roads. Seven point four percent motorcyclists did not possess driving license. Majority had worn helmet at time of accident (94.1%). 74.2% motorcyclists had accessed to medical care within first 30 minutes. There was no statistically significant association between license duration and injury severity score (<0.05 , 0.914). Among motorcyclists 44.1% had a disability at discharge requiring lag period to reach pre-accident functional level.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Majority of the motorcyclists are young, male and belongs to middle income category. Though a satisfactory compliance with traffic rules were noted, still a gap of knowledge and application exist which require more tailor-made prevention strategies. The severity of the injuries did not show association with the driving experience the motorcyclist had.

Keywords- Road Traffic Accident, Motorcyclist, Risk factors, Injuries, Morbidity