

Abstract

Introduction

Mental disorders are responsible for 10% of the global burden of disease (Murray & Lopez 1997), and alcohol dependence is the most important cause of neuropsychiatric problems after major depression, ranking among the 10 leading causes of disability (Brundt and 2000). Alcohol also causes more years of potential life lost through death and disability than tobacco or illegal drugs [World Health Organization (WHO) 2001] and is related to several chronic degenerative diseases and violent causes of death. While in developed countries a reduction in consumption can be observed, in developing countries consumption is rising (WHO 2001). Problems related to alcohol misuse in Sri Lanka are on the rise. Although there are many studies done in western countries about early identification and management of alcohol problems in our country it is a scarcity.

Objective

To describe the prevalence of alcohol use, frequency and amount of alcohol use and economic implications in patients admitted to medical wards in NHSL and to describe the management of alcohol use in said wards