

A STUDY TO ASSESS THE FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH SEVERITY OF ROAD TRAFFIC INJURIES IN THE EMERGENCY MEDICINE DEPARTMENT OF PESIMSR, KUPPAM

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To assess the factors associated with severity of road traffic injuries and to compare between the factors and the severity of road traffic injuries.

Method: A prospective study was conducted at PESMIR during the period of 2012-2014 .A total 750 confirmed accident cases were considered for the study. The secondary data was collected as per the date and time of accident, age, gender, education, place of accident, type of vehicle involved, victim involved, usage of seat belts or helmets, type of road, animal barricade, driving licence, alcohol influence and Injury Severity Score.

Results: The results showed that male patients contributed to 83.0% of the accident while females were 17% with the mean age between 36 to 38 years respectively. Majority of the patients were below primary school (59.7%). Between the times of accident to the time of arrival to the hospital the mean was 15.52 minutes. With regard to the place of accident, rural area contributed to 85.00%. The 2-wheeler contributed to 42.00% among the type of vehicles with rider contributing to 39.00% under the victim category. Usage of seat belts or helmets was almost nil contributing to 99.60%. Most of the roads were single roads (94.4%). The usage of driving license contributed to only 45.00%. Alcohol consumption in road traffic accidents contributed to 48%.Injury Severity Score showed that 43.00% of the population in the study was critically ill. All the contributed factors were statistically significant (p<0.01) with type of road, area of accident, alcohol influence, age, rider and usage of seatbelts/helmets respectively.

Conclusion: Road traffic injury has emerged as a major public health problem, which can be definitely prevented and controlled by the light of sensitization programme. Efforts need to be made in all areas concerned with road safety, enforcement, education and emerging care, after all road safety is no accident occurs on the epitome

KEYWORDS: Road Traffic Accidents, Injury Severity Score

INTRODUCTION

The Road traffic accidents are a human tragedy. They involve high human suffering and socioeconomic costs in terms of premature deaths, injuries, loss of productivity, and so on. ¹ During 2008, Road Traffic Injuries (RTI) ranked fourth among the leading causes of death in the world. ² Road traffic injuries are an important cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide, especially in low and middle-income countries and are currently ranked 9th globally among the leading causes of disease burden, in terms of disability adjusted life years (DALYs) lost. The total annual costs of road

crashes to low-income and middle-income countries are estimated to be about US \$ 65 billion, which is more than the total annual amount received in development assistance¹. Nearly 1.3 million people die every year on the world's roads and 20 to 50 million people suffer non-fatal injuries, with many sustaining a disability as a result of their injury.³ Road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death among young people aged 15-29 years and cost countries 1-3% of the gross domestic product (GDP).⁴ In India, the motor vehicle population is growing at a faster rate than the economic and population growth. The surge in motorization coupled with expansion of the road network has brought with it the challenge of addressing adverse factors such as the increase in road accidents.¹ According to the World Health Organization (WHO), road traffic injuries are the sixth leading cause of death in India with a greater share of hospitalization, deaths, disabilities and socio-economic losses in the young and middle-aged population. Road traffic injuries also place a huge burden on the health sector in terms of pre-hospital and acute care and rehabilitation.⁶ During the calendar year 2012, Tamil Nadu has reported the maximum number of road accidents (67,757) accounting for 15.4% of such accidents in the country. Although Maharashtra had the highest number of registered vehicles in the country, the highest number of deaths due to road accidents during the years were reported in Tamil Nadu (11.6%) followed by Uttar Pradesh (10.9%), Andhra Pradesh (10.8%) and Maharashtra (10.0%). The rate of accidental deaths per thousand vehicles was highest in Bihar and West Bengal at 1.9 each followed by Himachal Pradesh (1.8), Andhra Pradesh (1.5) and Jammu and Kashmir (1.5) as compared to 1.0 at the national level. The rate of deaths per 100 cases of road accidents was the highest in Nagaland (133.3), followed by Punjab (75.8) and Mizoram (70.0) as compared to 31.6 at the national level. The deaths in Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh, due to road accidents were reported to be 69.6, 67.5, 53.5 and 51.9% respectively.⁷ World Health Organization (WHO) strategy of 2001 reports that currently road traffic injuries are the leading cause of deaths and injuries, the 10th leading cause of all deaths and 9th leading contributor to the burden of disease worldwide based on disability adjusted life years. The numbers of deaths resulting from road traffic crashes have been projected to reach 8.4 million in the year 2020.7 In India, road traffic injuries lead to major cause of mortality and morbidity. As the major chunks of patients are due to road traffic injuries. It was felt as a necessary attempt to know the factors responsible for road traffic injuries. Therefore this study is undertaken to know the factors associated with severity of road traffic injuries. Since ours is the only tertiary level hospital with full fledged department of emergency in the area and catering for all types of emergencies including trauma. A total sample of 750 patients was selected for the study from October 2012 to April 2014 after obtaining an informed consent. The proposed outcome of the study was to know the factors contributing to road traffic accidents and to assess their severity based on Injury Severity Score(ISS). The present study aims to assess the factors associated with severity of road traffic injuries and to compare between the factors and the severity of road traffic injuries.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A prospective study was conducted at PESMIR during the period of 2012-2014. A total 750 confirmed accident cases were considered for the study. The secondary data was collected as per the Performa-date and time of accident, date and time of arrival to emergency department, age, sex, education, place of accident, type of vehicle involved, victim involved, usage of seat belts or helmets, type of road, animal barricade, driving licence, alcohol influence and Injury Severity Score.

Inclusion Criteria

All the victims of road traffic crash who come/brought to the hospital within 24 hrs of the crash.

Impact Factor (JCC): 3.6274

Exclusion Criteria

Brought dead patients, who deny consent for the study, refused treatment, injuries caused by other than road traffic injuries and Cases in which reliable history is unavailable.

Ethical approval was obtained from the Ethical committee of hospital. The consent has obtained from the patients/relatives for the study. Detailed history was collected based on the performa. Alcohol use will be assessed based on self report and breath odour, as assessed by the interviewer Clinical information on injury type and severity was recorded from the medical charts. Additional details were obtained from police and the medical staff when available; injury severity was assessed using the Injury Severity Score (ISS). Each injury sustained was assigned an Abbreviated Injury Score (AIS) and allocated to one of six body regions (head, face, chest, abdomen, extremities and external). Highest AIS from the three more severely injured body regions was squared and summed to produce the ISS. Univariate analysis was employed to test the hypothesis

RESULTS

	Gender	Mean age ±SD	CI-95%	P-Value	
	Female	37.99±5.31	30.25-45.58	0.00**	
	Male	36.16±3.42	28.56-42.13	0.00**	
. (Significant at 1% level (p<0.001) ns-non signific				

Table 1: Mean Age Distribution of the Patients Studied

**, Significant at 1% level (p<0.001), ns-non significant

Total 750 confirmed accident cases were included for the study, the mean age of the female patients was 38 and male patients were 36. The male patients comprised 83.1% and female patients were 16.9% respectively. Majority of the patients reached hospital between 15.52 minutes from the place of accident. Age and irrespective of gender were found to be statistically significant (p < 0.001). As per the findings rural population is vulnerable and highly probe and met with accident due to alcohol consumption, drug abuse, negligence of driving, rash driving and overrule of legal suits of traffic and it was comprised 85.2% where as urban area accounted 14.80% respectively.

Table 2: Distribution of Patient Accidents Based on Type of Vehicle

Type of Vehicle	Frequency	P-Value
2 + 4 wheeler	48(60.4%)	0.00**
3+4 wheeler	30(4.0%)	0.00**
4+4 wheeler	32(4.30%)	0.00**
2+3 wheeler	34(4.50%)	0.00**
2+2 wheeler	43(5.70%)	0.00**
4 wheeler	145(19.30%)	0.00**
3 wheeler	102(13.60%)	0.00**
9 wheeler	3(4.0%)	0.86 ^{ns}
Total	750(100.0%)	

**, Significant at 1% level (p<0.001), ns-non significant

The results explores that type of vehicles met with accident during the accrual period, as per the study it was constituted two - wheeler 41.70%, four wheeler was 19.3%; three wheeler was 13.60%, 2+4 wheelers was 6.4%; 2+2 wheeler was 5.70%, 2+3 wheelers was 4.50%, 4+4 wheelers was 4.30%, 3+4 wheeler was 4.0 % of the accidents occurs on the road ways .The accident were plausibly changes by the road condition, time and climatic condition. Except nine wheeler vehicle, all the above said vehicle Table 2 were found to be statistically significant with irrespective of age group (p<0.00).

Victim	Frequency	P-Value
Driver	94(12.50%)	0.00**
Pillion	79(10.50%)	0.00**
Passenger	188(25.10%)	0.00**
Pedestrian	97(12.90%)	0.00**
Total	750(100.0%)	

Table 3: Distribution of Victim

**, Significant at 1% level (p<0.001), ns-non significant

From the Table 3 reveals that, the various victims status met by the accidents, total 38.9% were being rider category, 25.1% was passenger group, 12.9% pedestrian group; 12.5% are driver group and 10.5% are pillion group respectively. Among the population 99.6% of the victims were not being used the seat belt/helmet, and only 0.4% were used the seat belt/helmet. Results show that, the majority of the roads are single (94.4%), while on 2.70% constituted to tarry roads 2.90% is with humps. 54.30% had no driving licence. Only 45.7% used the licence. 48% consumed alcohol while driving compared to 52% non alcoholic patients and found to be statistically significant (p<0.01). based on the injury the study comprises 43.1% patients with critical injury score, 40.3% had acquainted minor injury score, moderate constituted nearly about 9.2% and severe constituted was 7.50% respectively presented in Figure (1).



		Severity		T ()
Minor	Moderate	Mod/Severe	Severe/Critical	Total
38	9	6	15	68
103	19	19	124	265
126	36	27	165	354
35	5	4	19	63
	Minor 38 103 126 35	Minor Moderate 38 9 103 19 126 36 35 5	Severity Minor Moderate Mod/Severe 38 9 6 103 19 19 126 36 27 35 5 4	Severity Minor Moderate Mod/Severe Severe/Critical 38 9 6 15 103 19 19 124 126 36 27 165 35 5 4 19

Figure 1: Injury Severity Score (ISS) Table 4: Comparison of Age versus Injury Severity Score

Chi-square=24.29, d.f=15, p-value=0.039

A Study to Assess the Factors Associated with Severity of Road Traffic Injuries in the Emergency Medicine Department of PESIMSR, Kuppam

Тс					
Vehicle	Minor	Moderate	Moderate/ Severe	Severe/ Critical	Total
2 wheeler	108 (p=0.00)	26(p=0.00)	28(p=0.00)	151(p=0.00)	313(p=0.00**)
2 + 4 wheeler	14(p=0.00)	1(p=0.91)	3(p=0.56)	30(p=0.00)	48(p=0.00**)
3+4 wheeler	17(p=0.00)	5(p=0.66)	1(p=0.98)	7(p=0.52)	30(p=0.00**)
4+4 wheeler	14(p=0.00)	4(p=0.76)	1(p=0.95)	13(p=0.23)	32(p=0.00**)
2+3 wheeler	10(p=0.00)	3(p=0.42)	1(p=0.96)	20(p=0.00)	34(p=0.00**)
2+2 wheeler	21(p=0.00)	1(p=0.93)	3(p=0.68)	18(p=0.00)	43(p=0.00**)
4 wheeler	75(p=0.00)	15(p=0.00)	10(p=0.00)	45(p=0.00)	145(p=0.00**)
3 wheeler	41(p=0.00)	14(p=0.00)	9(p=0.00)	38(p=0.00)	102(p=0.00**)
9 wheeler	2(p=0.86)	0(-)	0	1(-)	3

Table 5: Comparison between the Type of Vehicle and Injury Severity Score

P value= .000, chi square= 43.87, df =24

Table 6: Comparison between Driving License and Injury Severity Score

Driving License		Severity					
		Minor	Moderate	Moderate/ Severe	Severe/Critical	Total	
01	No	161	40	33	173	407	
02.	Yes	141	29	23	150	343	
P Value 700 chi square 1.04 df 3							

P Value= .790, chi square= 1.04, df= 3

DISCUSSIONS

This study was undertaken to identify the various risk factors associated with road traffic accidents and also to check the Injury Severity Score for each patients coming to emergency medicine department with the complaints of road traffic accidents. The age group of the patients in the present study was distributed from 1 year to 80 years. In female patients, the mean age constituted to 37.99 and in male patients it was 36.16. According to the study done by Nilamber J et al in JIPMER27 maximum injuries were in the age group of 20-29 years (31.3%) and 71% of the victims were under 40 years of age. In another hospital based study by Ganveer GB28 majority of the victims were in the age group 18-37 years. One more study reported in NIMHANS by Gururaj G *et al* 19 highest number of Traumatic Brain Injuries with Road Traffic Injury was in the age group of 21-35 years (43%) with a male to female ratio of 4:1. This finding is in agreement with various studies which have been found that , the most of the victims being the productive age-groups.

One more similar study conducted at Municipal Corporation of Delhi total **25** of the total injuries 69% occurred in the age group of 15 to 35 years and males were four times more affected than females. The study conducted at Government Medical College and Hospital, Chandigarh.270 (33.96%) cases were major victims of age group 21-30 years followed, by age group 31-40 years were 163 (20.50%). Majority of victims involved were males 643 (80.88%) as compared to females 152(19.12%).it is clear from above study that males in the group 20-39 years are more vulnerable for accidents as they are most active group.28.In Karnataka the study was conducted in Bijapur 2007, showed that the maximum no. of victims 30.9% were of age group 20-29 years, both males and females. Age group 20-39 years accounted for 50% of cases, while age group 20-49 years accounted for 2/3rd of the cases. The lowest no. of victims were seen in age group more than 60 years and less than 10 years accounting for 6.34% and 4.16% respectively. Asper the present study findings the agreement was made with the above studies. It is evident that the victims are predominantly

from a productive age group with the Road Traffic Injury resulting in a compromise in their quality of life. However, the present study female percentage constituted to 16.9% compared to male patients 83.1%. Lower literacy, lack of awareness, elevated socio demographic index were oftently increased the incidence of accidents on road ways .predominately the present study explored that road condition, alcohol consumption during night time were reported as predictors of the study hypothesis and found to be statistically significant (p<0.00).

CONCLUSIONS

Road traffic accidents are on the rise, globally. The main cause of injuries can be attributed to the man's ever increasing desire to move faster than his two legs can carry him. This attitude reflects his mind and quest for inventing faster and stronger machines as means of communication and transportation. Such machines have brought along with them an increase in the number of road traffic accidents, both in air and on the road. The sensitization programme for rural population could be declined the incidence of road accidents. The government is strictly addressing these issues and reduces the obstacles on undulating roads.

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7

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