

Pattern and distribution of skeletal injuries in victims of fatal road traffic accidents

Pratibha R. Kulkarni, K. Sankara Narayana, R. B. Kotabagi, Venkatesh Maled

Department of Forensic Medicine, SDM College of Medical Sciences and Hospital, Dharwad, Karnataka

Abstract

Globally, road traffic accidents are increasing at an alarming rate, with victims usually sustaining multiple injuries, with skeletal injuries being one of the commonest injuries with increased mortality rates secondary to vital organ injuries and massive haemorrhage. The present study assesses the pattern and distribution of skeletal injuries in victims of fatal road traffic accidents and its relationship with cause of death. We found that majority (51%) of the victims were aged between 21-40 years with male preponderance (83%). Motorcyclists were the most common victims (53%), followed by pedestrians (18%). Most common sites of fractures were of the skull (74%), ribs (43%) and lower limb bones (18%). Forty percent of cases succumbed to injuries within 24 hours of accident. Most common cause of death was head injury (71%), followed by haemorrhagic shock (18%). Skull fracture was present in 95.78% of victims who died of head injury.

Keywords

Road Traffic Accidents; Motorcyclists; Head Injury; Fractures

Corresponding Author

Dr Pratibha R Kulkarni (Assistant Professor)

Email: pratibha_ak@rediffmail.com; pratibhark84@gmail.com

Mobile: 9480623239

Article History

Received: 4th October, 2019; Revision received on: 17th March, 2020

Accepted: 25th March, 2020