

**“PATTERN AND DISTRIBUTION OF SKELETAL INJURIES IN  
VICTIMS OF FATAL ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.”**

*by*

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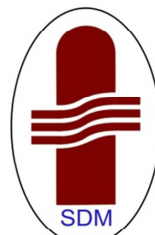


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Truth Liberates

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## ABSTRACT

**Background and Objectives:** Globally, road traffic accidents (RTA) are increasing at an alarming rate, with victims usually sustaining multiple injuries. Skeletal injuries being one of the commonest injuries may prove fatal, especially when associated with injury to vital organs and massive hemorrhage. In view of studies done on fatal RTA in North Karnataka region being scanty, the present study was conducted to study the pattern and distribution of skeletal injuries in victims of fatal RTA and its relationship with cause of death.

**Methods:** One hundred victims of fatal RTA with skeletal injuries were studied during the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2013 to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2014. Findings from medical records, radiographs and autopsy were compiled, tabulated and analyzed using descriptive statistics.

**Results:** RTA comprised 53.48% of all autopsies. More than half of the sample belonged to 21-40 years age group with male preponderance (83%). Majority of RTA occurred on national highways (38%), during day time (92%). Motorcyclists were the most common victims (53%), followed by pedestrians (18%). Majority of the victims had fractures of the skull (74%), ribs (43%) and lower limb bones (18%). Skull fracture was predominant in all types of victims, except drivers, who had rib fractures. Majority of cases (40%) succumbed to injuries within 24 hours of accident. Most common cause of death was head injury (71%), followed by hemorrhagic shock (18%). Skull fracture was present in 95.78% of victims who died of head injury.

**Interpretation and Conclusion:** Individuals who succumbed to RTA were young adults, males and had sustained multiple fractures, irrespective of type of victims. Fractures can contribute directly or indirectly in causation of death. An organized, multi-disciplinary teamwork involving education, engineering, medical, legislative, and law-enforcement authorities together can make a huge difference in reducing the prevalence of RTA.

**Keywords:** Autopsy; bone fractures; causes of death; traffic accidents; motorcycle; motor vehicle.