

**PATTERN AND CAUSES OF ADMISSIONS OF PHYSICAL INJURY
AT THE TEACHING HOSPITAL PERADENIYA**

C. S. BADURALIYA¹, Y. K. WEERASINGHE¹, H.J. SURaweera²
AND M.D. LAMAWANSA¹

¹*Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya,*
²*Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya*

Physical injury is the leading cause of hospitalisation in Sri Lanka. However, information on trauma related admissions are scanty. A careful analysis of detailed reports of trauma cases would enable identification of the pattern and causes prevalent of hospitalization due to injury. Thus, effective prevention and treatment methods could be planned. This study therefore, aims to investigate the pattern and causes of trauma admissions to the Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya with a view to make recommendations to formulate strategic preventive policies.

This is a prospective study conducted over a period of one year. Data on age, sex of the patient and the cause of the injury were recorded, from all trauma admissions, during the period June 2005 to May 2006. In addition, whether the patient was under the influence of alcohol at the time of injury was recorded.

In all, there were 1823 admissions of trauma cases. Of these, 1084 (59.5%) were males, 356 (19.5%) females and 383 (21.0%), were children. Admissions of patients of ages between 12 and 92 years were grouped as adults. The mean age for this group was 40.5 years. The mean ages of males and females were, 35.8 years (Range: 13-92 years) and 45.3 years (Range: 12-89 years) respectively. The paediatric age group showed a mean age of 5.2 years (Range: 17.5 days – 12 years). Six hundred and sixty eight (36.6%), admissions were due to falls, 330 (18.1) following road traffic accidents, 290 (15.9%) after assaults and 128 (7.0%) were due to accidental cuts. Of the males, 17.3% were under the influence of alcohol at the time of injury. The majority affected were young men (59.5%) with a mean age of 35.8 years. Falls from heights amounted to 46.6% of falls related admissions. Road traffic accidents showed that 34.2% of the victims were pedestrians. Of the paediatric admissions 59.3% were due to falls.

The findings suggest that of the admissions to Teaching Hospital Peradeniya, young men are the most susceptible group. Falls were the common cause of injury followed by road traffic accidents and assaults.