

Clinical and medico-legal aspect of traumatism bucco-dental injuries in yaounde-cameroon

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Abstract

Introduction

Medico-legal evaluation of patients with oral injuries is a not frequent exercise. Our study aimed to describe and evaluate the different lesions involved in traumatic oral injuries and their medico-legal implications in patients suffering from trauma in Cameroonian settings.

Methods

We conducted a descriptive, transversal and prospective study for 8 months during 2021, in consenting patients, with traumatic dental lesions in four secondary and tertiary health facilities in Yaoundé. The data was collected, processed, and analyzed using IBM SPSS version 23.0 software® for Windows®.

Results

Out of 129 patients included, 70.54% of the participants were male. The median age was 29.57 ± 14.73 years. Singles were 67.44%. Persons working in the private sector accounted for 48.84%, and those with secondary education accounted for 44.96%. The emergency unit of the selected hospital institutions received 51.00% of patients with traumatic oral injuries. Clinically, 183 teeth were traumatized, 79.24% of which were incisors. In total, 110 patients had dental trauma or a frequency of 85.27%, which were associated with labial lesions in 81.40% of cases, and 51.16% with alveolar lesions. Only 22.46% of cases were oral trauma associated with extra oral lesions. We recorded 56.59% of patients with traumatic oral injuries who were hospitalized, while 75.20% performed a radiological examination. In addition, 73.64% underwent surgery (31.78% minor surgery: stitches, splints, root canal treatment, tooth restoration, tooth extraction, drainage, debridement, reimplantation; 30.01% of major surgical procedures: osteosynthesis with mini screw plates, ligature wire restraints; 10.85% of esthetical procedure: prosthesis, implant, porcelain crown); and 26.36% of our cohort of participants were managed medically. We registered 72.09% of patients with head and neck injuries while 22.48% (29) had isolated oral trauma. About 54.26% of the participants were victims of road traffic accidents (RTA), while 24.03% (31) reported an assault, 20.15% were victims of falls and 1.55% of sports. In terms of forensics, the participants were divided into two groups according to the type of trauma suffered. Thus, 75.97% (98) suffered involuntary trauma (RVA, falls, sports injuries) and 24.03% (31) suffered voluntary trauma (assault or brawl). Our participants had an average total temporary disability of $21.97 \text{ days} \pm 17.47 \text{ days}$ (0-45 days). The 5-pain scale was used in our study and 37.21% of our population had grade 5 pain (highest intensity). Only 16.28% (21) of our participants received a documented forensic assessment. Of the participants, 13.18% (17) expressed their intention to seek legal compensation for the trauma they suffered. 76.74% (99) of the cases had a combination of functional impotence and cosmetic damage because of the traumatic injury. We found that 68.97% (60) of our participants received ≥ 30 days TTD for involuntary trauma while, 68.00% (17) received < 8 days TTD for voluntary trauma.

Conclusion: Traumatic bucco-dental injuries in Yaounde, not only shows clinical characteristics in common with many other studies in the world, but also shows different characteristics that should be further studied.

Key words

Traumatic Bucco-dental Injuries, clinical characteristics, Medico-legal certificate.

Biography

Nokam Abena Marie Elvire, recruited as an assistant in 2012, currently a Master 2 student and senior Lecturer since 2018 in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (FMBS) of the University of Yaoundé I. Responsible for the Bachelor's level at the FMBS. Head of the Odontostomatology Department at the Cité Verte District Hospital, Yaoundé. To my credit, 20 publications in national and international journals.



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