

Analysis of Medico Legal Cases in Accident and Emergency Department of Ayub Teaching Hospital Abbottabad

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To find out the frequency of various categories of medico legal cases and major characteristics of the victims in Accident and Emergency Department of Ayub Teaching Hospital Abbottabad.

Study Design: Analytic study.

Place and Duration of Study: This study was conducted at the Departments of Forensic Medicine & Accident and Emergency, Surgical, Ayub Medical College Abbottabad. from January 2015 to December 2016

Materials and Methods: The present study includes 2000 cases. Data was collected on proformas from the medico legal registers available in the casualty. The data was analyzed on SPSS 23.

Results: Among 2000 cases, 82.4% are males and 17.6% are females. 25.5% victims are less than 20 years of age. 54.1% are between 20-40 years age group. 17.5% belong to 40-60 years and 2.9% are above 60 years of age. Blunt weapons are the most common cause of injuries i.e. 70.7%, RTA 9.8%, Sharp weapons 5.8%, firearm injuries 4.9%, poisoning 3.8%, alcohol intoxication, sexual assault cases, burns and animal bite comprises 5% of the total cases. According to the opinion 32.4% victims suffer from S. Khafifa, 19.95% JGJ Damiyah, 7.1% S. Mudiah, 4.1% JGJ Motalahima, 8.5% from multiple injuries, 3.6% from poisons.

Conclusion: Males are the usually sufferers of most of assaults. Maximum number of victims belong to 20-40 age group. Most of the injuries are caused by blunt weapons. Head and face area is mostly affected.

Key Words: Medico legal, Qisas and Diyat ordinance, Shajjah, Jurh

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INTRODUCTION

The medicolegal system of Pakistan is basically the Police inquest system. Police investigates the crimes and seeks the help of the medical profession in relevant cases. Casualty medical officers and consultants not only treat the patients but also help the legal system of the country by acting as an expert witness in the court of law. Their duty is to examine, treat patients and issue medicolegal reports while dealing injured persons. Common medico legal cases include road traffic accidents, physical assault cases, sexual assault cases and poisoning.¹ Law enforcing officers and sometimes victims themselves request the medico legal officer to issue an injury report which is needed to start legal proceedings. Here the doctors use their medical knowledge to identify the injuries, time of injury and causative weapon.¹

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Medico legal certificates are documentary evidence produced in the court of law. Rules for evidence in criminal law are very strict, hence the doctor is advised to give decisive opinion to prove or disprove any fact in question.²

Qisas and Diyat Ordinance 1991 amended in 1997 is the law dealing with the criminal offences in Pakistan. Legally the injury is defined as "any illegal harm caused to the mind, body, property and reputation of a person", while hurt is defined as "any illegally injury, pain, harm, disease, infirmity to anybody, disable or dismember any organ or part of the body without causing death is said to have caused hurt to that person".

Hurt is divided into the following two sub classes

- A. Part of the body involved.
- B. Manner of infliction of hurt.

Body part involvement is further classified into the following classes.

- A. **Itlaf e udw;** Causing of dismemberment, amputation, or severement of any organ or limb of body
- B. **Itlaf e salaheat e udw;** Disfiguring or destruction of function or capacity of organ permanently
- C. **Shajjah;** Hurt on head or face which does not amount to itlaf-i-udwor itlaf-i-salahiyat udw. it is classified into ;
 1. Khafifah Hurt without exposing the bone
 2. Mudiah Exposing the bone without fracture
 3. Hashimah Fracturing the bone without dislocation
 4. Munaqqilah Fracturing bone with dislocation

5. Ammah Fracturing skull and wound touch the membrane

6. Damighah Fracturing skull and membranes ruptured

D. **Jurh:** Hurt on part of body other than head and face which leave mark permanently or temporarily

1. **Jaiffah** Wound entering the body cavity of trunk (chest or abdomen)

2. **Ghayr-i-Jaiffah:** Jurh not amounting to jaifa

1. Damiyah Rupturing of skin with bleeding

2. Badiyah Cutting of flesh without exposing the bone

3. Mutalahimah Lacerating the flesh

4. Mudihah Exposing of bone

5. Hashimah Fracture without dislocation of bone

6. Munaqilah Fracture with dislocation of bone

4. Others/miscellaneous

1. Hurt by poisoning (section 337J)

2. other injuries (section 337L-1, L-2)

Types and characteristics of the wounds found over the body of the victim indicate the type of weapons i.e. blunt, sharp, pointed, firearms, bombs, heat, corrosives etc.

Classification of hurt on the basis of manner of infliction is:

1. Hurt by negligent driving.

2. Hurt by rash and negligent act.

3. Hurt by mistake/ Khata.

4. Hurt by means of poison.

While dealing a medico legal case the opinion required by the police is mostly based on the description of wound, involvement of the body part and the kind of weapon used. Healing and repair changes of the wounds, indicate approximately the interval between time of wound occurrence and medical examination.³

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A retrospective analysis of all the medico legal cases coming to the casualty department of Ayub Teaching Hospital from Jan 2015 till Dec 2016 was done from the available record.

A proforma was developed on which data was entered from medico legal registers. Data was analysed during SPSS 23. Only the living victims are included in this study. Deaths due to unnatural causes were not included.

RESULTS

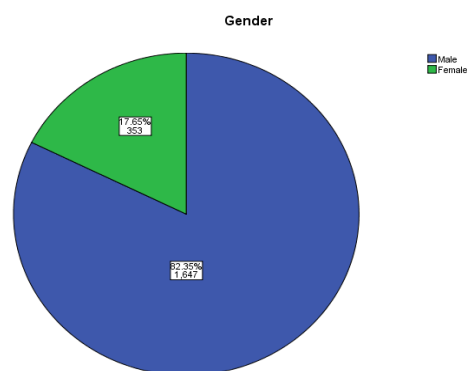


Figure No.1: Gender position

According to our study, 1647(82.4%) cases are male and 343(17.6%) are the female victims.

Table No.1: Detail of age-wise distribution cases

		Gender		
		Male	Female	Total
age group	1 to 20 years	427	83	510
		21.4%	4.2%	25.5%
	21 to 40 years	892	190	1082
		44.6%	9.5%	54.1%
	41 to 60 years	276	74	350
		13.8%	3.7%	17.5%
	Above 60 years	52	6	58
		2.6%	.3%	2.9%
Total		1647	353	2000
		82.4%	17.6%	100.0%

The age wise distribution shows a maximum number of cases among the adult age group i.e. 20-40 yrs it is 54.1% cases followed by 25.5% cases in less than 20 yrs of age.

Table No.2: Frequency with percentage

	Frequency	Percent
Blunt	1414	70.7
RTA	195	9.8
Sharp	116	5.8
Poisoning	76	3.8
FAI	98	4.9
Rape	9	.4
Sodomy	18	.9
Others	28	1.4
Multiple injuries	46	2.3
Total	2000	100.0

The most common area affected in the body is head and face area i.e. 32.4% injuries are documented on this part of the body. 19.95% injuries are noted on other parts of the body. Injuries found on both head and face area and the body comprises about 8.5% of the total cases. Radiologist opinion is required in 8.1% cases while 2.3 % cases are referred to dentistry, medicine, gynae and neurosurgery wards for management.

DISCUSSION

The mortalities and morbidities from all medico legal causes has been increasing at an alarming rate in our country and also throughout the world. One of the study shows that by the year 2020 mortality from communicable diseases will be less than those from injuries.⁴ Even than injuries are still not well recognized as a major public health problem in our country.⁵

Organized statistics about the types of medico-legal cases help in knowing the trend of occurrence of cases in that community.

Table No.3: Frequency with percentage

	Frequency	Percent
Normal	176	8.8
S. Khafifa	648	32.4
JGJ Mutalahima	82	4.1
S. Hashima	16	.8
Others	170	8.5
JGJ Damiyah	399	19.95
Poisoning	72	3.6
X-ray advised	162	8.1
Sodomy	18	.9
JurhJaifah	62	3.1
S. Mudiha	142	7.1
Referred	46	2.3
Rape	7	.4
Total	2000	100.0

According to our study, maximum cases of physical assault are noted among the male population which is in line with both national and international prevailing situations.⁶⁻⁸ About 54.4% cases were noted in 20-40yrs age group. This is almost the same finding done in other cities of the Pakistan⁸⁻¹⁰ and many other countries of the world.¹¹⁻¹²

According to WHO road traffic accidents will be the second most common cause of disability in the developing world.¹³ our study shows that RTA falls second to the blunt weapon injuries. This is in contradiction with the study done in Rawalpindi and Nepal.¹⁴⁻¹⁵

Most of the injuries are present on head and face area, followed by injuries on the other parts of the body. They are mostly scratches, abrasions and bruises. 3.1% cases shows penetration in a body cavity. 3.6% cases were received and treated for poisoning. 1.3% cases are of rape and sodomy collectively.

CONCLUSION

It is observed that most of the medico legal reports were deficient regarding the opinion of the injuries. No injury was declared according to Qisas and Diyat Ordinance. The police took help of the public prosecutors to interpret the injuries. Medico legal reports on hurts are medical documentary evidences, prepared by the medical practitioners, are very important for the courts in making their legal judgments. The type of wounds and weapons, legal categories of hurts and their ages must be specifically

noted in the injury reports: Medicolegal training and experiences strengthen the abilities of the medical expert witnesses. There is an urgent emerging need to streamline forensic education, training and work standards in the country like in America and Great Britain.¹⁶⁻¹⁹

Recommendations: The medical professionals dealing with medico legal work presently should be trained and certified through standardized training courses time to time to improve their participation in legal system.

Author's Contribution:

Concept & Design of Study: Salma Shazia
 Drafting: Amjad Farooq
 Data Analysis: Amjad Farooq
 Revisiting Critically: Salma Shazia, Amjad Farooq
 Final Approval of version: Salma Shazia

Conflict of Interest: The study has no conflict of interest to declare by any author.

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