

Epidemiology of traumatic Orthopaedic injuries at Princess Marina Hospital, Botswana

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Background: Traumatic injuries pose a significant and increasing challenge to health care systems worldwide. One major type of traumatic injuries is traumatic orthopaedic injuries. In Botswana, the epidemiology of traumatic orthopaedic injuries is unknown. The aim of the study was to evaluate the demographics, determinants, and type of traumatic orthopaedic injuries for inpatients at Princess Marina Hospital from August 2014 to January 2015.

Methods: We performed a descriptive study by retrospectively collecting data from medical records of patients admitted to male and female orthopaedic wards on gender, date of admission, date of injury, date of discharge, radiological investigation, injury types and determinants.

Results: Males were more frequently injured than females, with a gender ratio of 7:3. Our study revealed that fractures were the most

common type of traumatic orthopaedic injury (413 cases, 75.5%). The most common injury determinants were falls, with a frequency of 145 cases (39%) followed by road traffic accidents in 95 (25.5%) patients and assaults in 57 (15.3%) patients.

Conclusion: Fractures were the most common type of traumatic orthopaedic injury, with falls being the most common injury determinant. The government needs to implement strategies to bring about reduction of these injuries and their determinants.

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