

Descriptive study on paediatric fractures among children who were referred to single orthopaedic surgical unit in teaching hospital Jaffna

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Background:

Fractures are common in paediatric age group. By understanding the distribution of fractures and the causes preventive measures can be undertaken.

Objectives:

To describe the distribution of paediatric fractures and time delay in presentation

Methodology:

Interviewer administered questionnaire was used to collect the data from the children and their care takers from December 2015- January 2016.

Results:

54 patients were included in this study with the age ranges from 2-11 years. Among them 36(66.7%) were males(male: female= 2:1) Female children were younger with the mean age of 5.3years whereas mean age was 7.2 for male children. 48(89%) had upper limb fractures with 30 left sided fractures. Majority 20(37%) had supracondylar humerus fractures followed by distal radius 18.5% and both forearm bone fractures 14.8%. 50% of the fractures were due to fall from height, 31.5% were due to slip and fall whereas another 13% due to RTA. 46.3% of patients were given oil massage at the fracture site. 57.4% were admitted within 24 hours of injury and another 33.3% were admitted within 24-48 hours. None of the children with distal radius fracture presented within 24 hours. There is positive correlation between oil massage and delayed admission of > 24hours.

Conclusion:

Fractures are rare before the age of 2 years. By contrast to literature we had more supracondylar fractures than distal radius fractures probably due to its management in peripheral hospitals.