

INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL IN CRANIOROFCIAL INJURIES

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ABSTRACT

Alcohol consumption has become a part of daily life for people ranging from lower to upper class individuals. However, addiction of alcohol can lead to impaired judgment and undue physical harm. This study shows that alcohol intoxication plays a major role in craniofacial trauma and incidence of road traffic accidents is extremely high in India. A strict law has to be reinforced to ban/decrease the usage of alcohols for welfare of the society.

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Introduction

Alcohol consumption has become a part of daily life for people ranging from lower to upper class individuals. However, addiction of alcohol can lead to impaired judgment and undue physical harm. Most of the road traffic accidents happen due to alcohol influence in developing and developed countries. Most of these patients suffer from craniofacial injuries with or without head injuries.[1] Adverse effects of alcohol are intoxication which causes neurologic imbalance and instill violence and aggression among individuals who have consumed it. It also leads to increase in road traffic accidents, interpersonal conflicts and falls. [2, 3]Craniofacial skeletal region is the most common



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targeted area in alcoholic individuals. The severity of injuries varies from the quantity and time of alcohol consumed. Literature shows a well established correlation between alcohol and craniofacial injuries. [4, 5] Injuries occurring in these patients ranges from multiple facial fractures and severe head injuries which cause death immediately or leave the individual for poor prognosis. In developing and developed countries road traffic accidents remains the most major problem which is further aggravated by alcohol intoxication. The government of India has found some success to ban alcohol selling without license and educate the public about its adverse effects. In this article, we have accessed the relation between alcohol intoxication and degree of severity of craniofacial injuries. [4,5,6]

Material and Method

A study of 91 patients, who came to department of emergency between the period of March 2011 to March 2012 was conducted.Out of 91 patients, 57 patients were found to be intoxicated with alcohol and suffered massive craniofacial injuries. Alcohol use was documented as per the patient or attender because alcohol levels in the blood could not be checked due to legal constraints. Out of these 57 patients were found to be intoxicated with alcohol. Out of these 50 were male and 7 were females. The age group was found to be between 19 to 55 years. The most common alcohol intoxicated related mode of injury was road traffic accident (47.1%), interpersonal conflicts (25.8%), falls (21.5%) and miscellaneous (5.6%). Among cranio-

facial injuries, the most common fractures bone was mandible followed by zygomatic complex and other bones. Out of 57 patients , 27 patients sustained multiple fractures of craniorofacial skeleton , 9 patients had severe head injuries, 6 patient sustained C-spine fractures, 13 patients sustained skull fractures and 2 patients died due to severe head injuries and other concomitant injuries. Soft tissue injuries were found in 53 patients. [2]

Discussion

The economical costs, ease of availability and acceptance of alcohol as a representation of social status have contributed to its more major cause for various incidents like road traffic accidents and assaults. [5] Recent literature shows a decline in alcohol intoxicated injuries in developing and developed countries as a result of improved road traffic regulations, improved car safety mechanism, posing a ban on non licensed alcohol venders along the highways, conduction a public awareness campaigns. In India, a strong action has been taken by the government and serious punishments has been posed for drunk and driving which led to decline of the accidents but still it pose one of the major cause for accidents in developing and developed countries.[7-9]

In conclusion, this study shows that alcohol intoxication plays a major role in craniorofacial trauma and incidence of road traffic accidents is extremely high in India. A strict law has to be reinforced to ban/decrease the usage of alcohols for welfare of the society.

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