

ABSTRACT

Spectrum of Ocular Injuries Presenting at Emergency Department of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences

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Purpose: To determine the proportion, pattern and burden of eye injuries presenting at emergency department (A & E) of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Islamabad.

Study Design: Observational case series

Participants & methods: The study was carried out of all cases of ocular trauma presenting in PIMS via emergency department during a 1 year period. After presentation in the emergency department the detailed history of the patient was taken with particular reference to age, sex, mode of injury. Initial examination was carried out by using torch, slit lamp examination. Relevant investigations including X-ray orbit, B-scan of the orbit, X-ray skull and C.T-scan were also done where needed. Patient with superficial injuries were discharged after management, while those with serious injuries were admitted.

Results: 209 cases were enrolled in the study. Most were males (83.7%) between 16 and 30 years of age. The commonest place of injury was work place (30.6%) followed by home (30.1%). 194 patients (92.8%) presented in emergency within 24 hours and only 15 patients (7.2%) came after one day. 202 patients (96.7%) presented directly to emergency and only 7 (3.3%) were referred by other hospitals. Visual acuity was 6/6 in 31.6% of patients while five patients (2.4%) had no light perception. Most of the patients were treated without hospitalization and only 58 patients (27.8%) were admitted in the hospital.

Conclusion: The current burden of eye injuries presented to A&E department of PIMS had been estimated. Ocular trauma remained an important cause of blindness, particularly among younger age groups. Al-Shifa Journal of Ophthalmology 2008; 4(2): 61-68 © Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital, Rawalpindi, Pakistan.