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Evaluation of patterns of trauma reporting to the emergency department during the first COVID-19 lockdown in India

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On March 24, 2020, the Government of India declared a nationwide lockdown and a series of measures aimed at limiting the spread of the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) infection. This led to dynamic changes in patient inflow and management in the emergency department.

Aim:

This study aims to evaluate the impact of the pre-lockdown and lockdown periods on the demography of trauma in a tertiary care teaching hospital.

Methods:

The trauma caseloads between March 25, 2020 and April 14, 2020 and that of the homologous period of 2019 were thoroughly analyzed and compared retrospectively.

Results:

There was an overall decrease in trauma patients. Elderly male patients had an increased incidence of injury during the lockdown period with a significant p-value (0.0009). There was a significant increase in the number of minor orthopedic procedures while there was a significant decrease in the number of major orthopedic procedures. Fractures of the proximal femur were significantly increased during the lockdown period (p-value 0.011) and fractures of the femur and tibia shaft were significantly decreased during the lockdown period (p-value 0.002). Fractures of the distal radius were significantly increased during the lockdown period

(p-value 0.005) and fractures of the shaft of humerus, radius and ulna were significantly decreased during the lockdown period (p-value 0.028). Injuries following fall, trivial trauma and animal-induced trauma were significantly increased (p-values <0.0001, <0.0001, 0.014, respectively), whereas injuries following sports and motor vehicle accidents were significantly decreased (p-value 0.006, <0.0001, respectively). The number of patients reaching within the golden hour (<1 hour) was significantly increased (p-value 0.0003).

Conclusion:

Strict administrative measures had a high impact on the number and epidemiology of trauma with remarkable changes. There were a decreased number of trauma cases but the mechanism, type and management of these cases were significantly altered from the homologous period of the previous year.

Biography

Swagat Mahapatra is Associate Professor, Department of Orthopaedics and Consultant Hand Surgeon at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow, India. He has done his post-Graduation in Orthopaedics and has completed his Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Hand and Reconstructive Microsurgery. He is also a diploma holder from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. He has more than 50 Publications in international high impact journals. He specializes as a clinician as well as an academician in the field of Orthopaedics, Joint Surgery, Trauma, Hand Surgery and [Peripheral Nerve Surgery](#).

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