

Trauma Registry-Need of the Hour

Sir,

This is in reference to the article, "Pattern, Severity and Circumstances of Injuries Sustained in Road Traffic Accidents: A Tertiary Care Hospital-Based Study" published in the Indian Journal of Community Medicine 2014;39:30-4.⁽¹⁾

Injury surveillance is the best way of monitoring changing trends, identifying new problems, selecting interventions, measuring the impact of interventions and is the foundation to formulate injury prevention programs in India.⁽²⁾

I have a few concerns in this study regarding the source of data collection.

We can get reliable results only if every road traffic accident victim was asked the same question in the same way for every detail regarding the pattern, severity and circumstances of trauma.

Trauma registries are a potential source of part of the data needed for comprehensive public health surveillance of injuries. Like other disease registries, those for trauma are used to collect, store and retrieve data describing the etiologic factors, demographic characteristics, diagnoses, treatments, and clinical outcomes of individuals who meet specified case criteria.⁽³⁾

Unless trauma case sheets have a minimum set of trauma care data elements and standardized trauma care data definitions through an inclusive and consensus based process including demographic information of the patient, injury information, hospital procedure information etc., it is very difficult to interpret the results with the fact in place that the case sheets are filled at

different times at trauma emergency by different medical professionals.⁽⁴⁾

However, there is still a continuing challenge regarding the exact inclusion criteria to select patient for trauma registry, which needs to be catered for making the effective use of this data.

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