

Spectrum of Firearm injuries in district Quetta

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ABSTRACT

Aim: To determine pattern, age, gender, body region involved in firearm victims brought to the medicolegal department of Sandeman (Prov) Hospital Quetta.

Design: Observational Descriptive Study

Duration of study: One year

Methods: The study was conducted in Central Park Medical College, Lahore based on the data of firearm cases of the year 2002, collected from the Medicolegal department of Sandeman (Prov) Hospital Quetta.

Results: Out of 309 victims the most frequent cases of firearm found in the age group of 21-30yrs, and 31-40 years, 115(37.2%) each and 2nd most common age group was 41-50yrs 35(11.3%) , and in 3rd most common group was 11-20yrs 22(7.1%) which is followed by 51-60yrs 15(4.9%). A least pattern above 60yrs age group contained only 5 cases (1.6%) and the very least number of cases 2(0.6%) in 0-10yrs group was found.

Conclusion: The victims of firearm injuries were young people aged between 20-40 years and most common region involved was Thorax and frequent organ injured was lungs.

Keywords: Firearm injury, medicolegal, age group

INTRODUCTION

Firearm deaths and injuries have severe and comprehensive effects on communities the prices of gun deaths and injuries per person square measure determinable to be the simplest of any injury¹. Firearm Injuries area unit ordinarily encountered and a significant pathological state that severely affects the criminal justice and health-care systems². Over the year, gun injuries have intimate global³ episodes of epidemic and endemic nature, significantly within the USA⁴, African nation⁵, Italy⁶, Finland⁷ and South Asia⁸. Pakistan isn't so much behind from developed countries attributable to its social group culture and borders with Asian nation. the majority varieties of weapons area unit factory-made in social group areas, furthermore importing from Asian nation and attributable to serious inflow of refugees (more than three million), all types of latest refined weapons area unit obtainable throughout Pakistan while not a lot of control⁹, visible of the necessity to regulate and reduce embezzled trafficking of firearms, the world organization crime interference and justice commission recently passed a resolution

encouraging all countries to strengthen their domestic regulating. Since weak management in one country will have an effect on the protection in others⁹. There were a niche between the trends and result that were on case history, thus this study was planned to work out the pattern, age , gender, variety and site of gun injuries in gun victims dropped at the learned profession department of Sandeman (Prov) Hospital Quetta throughout the year 2002.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Central Park Medical faculty, Lahore and knowledge of all gun fatalities, were collected from the medico legal department of the Sandeman (Prov) Hospital Quetta and knowledge collected throughout the amount from Jan 2002 to Gregorian calendar month 2002. Our study was tried to outline the circumstances, motives, extent and severity of firearm-related injuries in their victims. All gun death records were completely reviewed the data like, demographic knowledge of the victim and quantity between incidence, and medico legal examination & examination of the characteristics of gun injuries like vary and range of entry/exit wound, form of weapon used. A detailed history was taken from attendants or the persons accompanying the injured person. Police papers like, inquest report was thoroughly studied and relevant findings were noted at same time. This is an observational descriptive study and data of 309 cases of firearm injuries were recorded, compiled and analyzed.

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RESULTS

Table 1: Gender variation in Firearm victims

Valid	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulative %
Male	279	90.3	90.3	90.3
Female	30	9.7	9.7	100.0

A total of 309 victims of small-arm injuries were recorded throughout the study amount, out of 309 small-arm victims, 279(90.3%) males and thirty (9.7%) females showed in table-1, and also the ages of victims showed in table-2 that is ranged from zero to over sixty years. The most frequent cases of small-arm victims found at the age of 21-30yrs and 31-40 years, 115(37.2%) every and second most typical cohort was 41-50yrs 35(11.3%) and in 3rdmost common cluster was 11-20yrs 22(7.1%) that is followed by 51-60yrs 15(4.9%). A least pattern above 60yrs age group contained only 5 cases (1.6%) and the very least number of cases 2(0.6%) in 0-10yrs group was found. In age group from 0-10yrs the minimum age of the child was 8yrs. Table -3 showed the most common region found in fire arm victims was Thorax 140(45.3%), and the 2nd most common region was Abdomen 81(26.2%) and the 3rd common region was pelvis 30(9.7%) found. A least region was Head & neck 29 (9.4%) followed by Upper limb 22(7.1%) and very least region in firearm injuries was lower limb 7(2.3%) found. In all above regions 70% from far distance injuries and 30% from near distance injuries were found. History of incidence, weapons used during the incidence and pattern of injuries mentioned 80% were rifled firearm injuries and 20% from smooth bore weapons used for such injuries. Data were analyzed on using SPSS version 20.

Table 2: Age of the victims in Firearm victims

Valid	Fre- quency	%	Valid %	Cumulative %
0-10yrs	2	.6	.6	.6
11-20 yrs	22	7.1	7.1	7.8
21-30 yrs	115	37.2	37.2	45.0
31-40 yrs	115	37.2	37.2	82.2
41-50 yrs	35	11.3	11.3	93.5
51-60 yrs	15	4.9	4.9	98.4
>60yrs	5	1.6	1.6	100.0

Table 3: Body region involved in firearm victims

Valid	Fre- quency	%	Valid %	Cumulative %
Head & neck	29	9.4	9.4	9.4
Thorax	140	45.3	45.3	54.7
Abdomen	81	26.2	26.2	80.9
Pelvis	30	9.7	9.7	90.6
Upper limb	22	7.1	7.1	97.7
Lower limb	7	2.3	2.3	100.0

DISCUSSION

Gun possession is principally a male development, a method to demonstrate manhood, notably among young men.(10) whereas men area unit the predominating victims of gun violence, girls area unit most vulnerable behind closed doors, wherever guns area unit wont to intimidate, control, hurt and kill intimate partners¹¹. In our study the bulk of the victims were males 279(90.3%) males and thirty (9.7%) females. The most frequent cases of gun victims found at the age of 21-40yrs. The male preponderance is to keep with the very fact that males area unit typically additional bold and additional aggressive and a high proportion of gun connected injuries among male may be attributable to their role that obligate them to be additional exposed to the skin atmosphere than females. Another study showed an identical findings in a very of Baluchistan²². The same as the rising incidence of homicides throughout the world^{12,13,14,15}. Our study determined a rise within the incidence and share of gun homicides. This observation additionally agrees with the increasing incidence of gun homicides in alternative cities of Islamic Republic of Pakistan^{16,17,18,19,20,21}. Occupational history showed, half-hour victims were out of work, two hundredth were farmers, two hundredth were labourers, five-hitter were students, 100% were drivers, 100% were housewives, five-hitter were shopkeepers were found in cases. There was no any association of occupation found in risk of gun injuries, during which most of the victims were engaged in easy occupations like labour, farming, taxi driving; a decent range of scholars were additionally victims²³. In most the cases, high rate weapons were used as firearms. In 80(80%) of gun victims, the injuries were caused by cutthroat attacks, whereas in ten cases (10%) had history of accidental gun injuries obtained; in five cases (5%) fatalities were self-destructive and within the remaining 5(5%) the cause(s) of gun injuries were attributable to robbery.

CONCLUSION

1. Males were commonly affected and most common manner was Homicidal
2. The victims of firearm injuries were young people aged between 20-40 years and most common region involved was Thorax.

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