Implementing a hospital based Injury Surveillance System in Nigeria- a preliminary Report

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Introduction

As part of a Multinational Injury Surveillance System Pilot Project (MISSP) in five African countries, Nigeria's participation is in two phases. Phase I consisted of a formative evaluation at National Orthopaedic hospital Dala, Kano. Phase II began with prospective data collection on January 1, 2007.Obstacles and opportunities were experienced in the implementation process. Detailed analysis of Road traffic injuries (RTI) is presented

Materials & Method

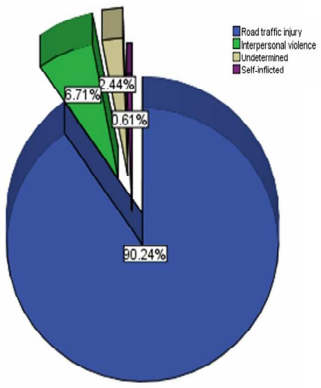
In Phase I, an evaluation of the hospital logistics and injury caseload expected during the prospective data collection (Phase II), was made. An injury surveillance questionnaire designed by the Pan American Health Organization was field-tested. Data collected in Phase II was entered into a database and sent to the coordinating center for quality control. Edited reports produced were sent back to the hospital for corrections.

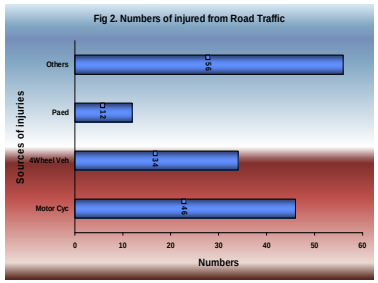
Results

Between January and May, 2007, 164 cases were recorded, most were RTI (90.2%). IPV represented 6.7%. There was one self inflicted injury and four cases were undetermined. Most RTI injuries occured while riding a motorcycle (31.1%) followed by driving four-wheeled vehicles (23%), 8.1% were pedestrians. Most motorcycle riders did not wear helmet (95.2%%). Their most common injuries were fractures (47.8%) in the lower extremities (55%). There was no evidence of alcohol use in most riders (85.7%), for the remaining cases there was no information available

Summary: See Figures 1 & 2

Fig 1. Causes of injuries





Discussion

RTI constitutes a burden of injury as can be demonstrated in our surveillance.This is also consisitent with literatures on this subject in the context of the developing countries.

Conclusions

Developing a surveillance system through this pilot aims at increasing the capacity for data collection on injuries and understanding the context of these injuries in order to develop evidence based prevention strategies in the future badly needed in low income countries such as Nigeria.

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