ABSTRACT

This study is being conducted to identify the severity of road traffic injured patients admitted to Nguyen Dinh Chieu General Hospital and its associations.

One hundred and sixty five injured patients admitted to Nguyen Dinh Chieu Hospital during January 2002 and who met the proposed criteria were included in the study. Data was collected by using a set questionnaire with face-to-face interviews and a checklist form for patient’s hospital records.

The results showed that the majority of respondents were male in the labor age and more than half of them were married. Nearly half of the respondents were students, housewives and unemployed persons (44.8%), and 52.7% had low and average income. Among 165 injured patients, 60.5% of them were drivers, of which 44.8% were motorcyclists. For injured motorcyclists, 70.3% of injured motorcyclists had no driving license, and 45.9% of them had to pay a fine for their traffic violation. Concerning personal behavioral factors, 36.5% of motorcyclists took alcohol before their accident, most of them drove at an average speed of between 20-40 kms/hour, and 95.9% of motorcyclists did not use a helmet. Considering health problems, 4.1% of injured motorcyclists had problems with their health. Regarding vehicles, road and environmental factors, approximately three quarters of respondents met accident on good roads with smooth surface, around 75% observed sufficient light, or loose traffic and 61.8% of cases had accidents on normal sites. These results are more or less the same as the specific groups. Nearly to two-thirds of accidents happened in the daytime and involved 2 vehicles. 50.3% of cases spent more than 60 minutes to be taken from the accident place to the hospital, and only one quarter of cases were taken by ambulance. It was found that 43.6% of injured patients were of moderate degree, 41.2% were of serious degree. Almost half of cases sustained injuries to their heads, it was also found some significant association between time of accident, location of accident, time taking patients from the accident place to the hospital and the severity of injury (p-value<0.05).

It is recommended that road safety programs must be introduced, punishment laws must be strictly enforced. Especially, a surveillance system should be set up to give proper help for the injured patients at the accident site as well as the supporting system when accident occurred through participation of all parties involved.