

Epidemiology of Child's Ocular Globe Injury: A Retrospective Study at the University Teaching Hospital-Campus of Lomé (Togo)

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Abstract

Aim: To study clinical and epidemiological characteristics of child's ocular injuries. **Patients and Method:** Retrospective study on medical records of children suffering from traumatic injuries of the ocular globe presented to the Campus Teaching Hospital (CHU Campus) of Lomé from 3 January 2015 to 30 June 2016 (18 months). Age, sex, nature of the traumatising agent, consultation delay and the width of the injury (zone I, II or III), the classification of ocular trauma, according to "Birmingham Eye Trauma Terminology (BETT) system", connected lesions have been studied. **Results:** Twenty children about 46.51% children presented for ocular trauma have been suffering from a globe injury. The average age was 6.68 years with the extremes of 1 year and 12 years; the age bracket of 0 - 5 years was more represented (45%); predominance was more from the female with a sex-ratio = 0.67. Eighty percent of the children were from rural areas while twenty from urban areas. The delay of consultation was less than 24 hours in 40% of cases and 15% consulted between 24 h and 72 h after the trauma. Traumas were entirely unilateral and penetrating within a majority of 15 (75%) cases of which a "stick" is the traumatising agent of the most frequent (40%). The seat of the injury was the zone I (85.71%) and zone II (14.29%). Connected lesions were dominated by iris hernia 7 (35%) and traumatic cataract 6 (30%). **Conclusion:** children's traumas were high predominantly and they came in majority from rural zones. Prevention through awareness remains the best treatment.

Keywords

Child, Injury, Globe, Ocular, Lomé

1. Introduction

Ocular traumas represent the first cause of child's blindness [1]. Children make the highest proportion of people suffering from serious globe traumas [2]. Globe injuries are serious traumas as they can jeopardise children's visual function. The awareness of epidemiological characteristics of these injuries with children will certainly help in the reduction of their incidences by avoiding such accidents. Since January 2015, Lomé Campus Teaching Hospital has a paediatric ophthalmology unit for diagnosis and treatment. The aim of this study is to analyse clinical and epidemiological characteristics of child's globe injuries from a retrospective study since the institution of this unit.

2. Patients and Method

We have conducted a retrospective study upon 18 months (2 January to 30 June 2016) as far as the exhaustiveness of the records of children's (0 to 17 years) global injuries received in the unit of ophthalmology of CHU Campus of Lomé. Data received throughout our census were based upon age, gender, circumstance of accident, nature of the traumatising agent and the delay of consultation. In most case, the criterion of visual acuity was not considered. The ophthalmological clinical examination has helped a classification of the wound following the "Birmingham Eye Trauma Terminology system (BETT)" [3] in matters of penetrating, perforating or globe rupture trauma. We have proceeded following the Ocular Trauma Classification Group [4]: wound involvement is isolated to the cornea in zone I, full-thickness wound involves the sclera no more posteriorly than 5 mm from the corneoscleral limbus in zone II and full-thickness wound is posterior to zone II in zone III.

3. Results

Demographic

Twenty children (46%, 51%) counted among the 43 children suffering from ocular trauma during the study period. The average age was 6.68 years with extreme of 1 year and 12 years, the bracket of those less than 5 years was noticed with 45% of these children. A sex-ratio of 0.61 (8/13) of female predominance has been noticed (Table 1). It has been also noticed that eighty per cent of the children were coming from rural areas and 20 per cent from the urban areas.

Clinical

Forty per cent of the children (8 cases) have come to hospital instantly in the

Table 1. Distribution of children by sex and age.

	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total
[0, 5]	3 (15)	6 (30)	9 (45)
[5, 10]	4 (20)	2 (10)	6 (30)
[10, 17]	1 (5)	4 (20)	5 (25)
Total	8 (40)	12 (60)	20 (100)

24 hours that followed their trauma. Fifteen percent (3 cases) have been received for ophthalmological consultation between the 24th and 72th hours while 45% (9 cases) after 72 hours. The nature of the traumatising agent is variable but it is mainly sharp for 75% (15 cases) they are mainly “sticks” for 35% (7 cases). Fifteen (75%) traumatism were penetrating, 3 (10%) cases were a breaking of the globe and two of which the mechanism was not specified by their parents (**Table 2**).

The seat of the injury was zone I in 85.71% and zone II in 14.29%. Ocular traumas were all unilateral of which 7 cases on the right eye and 13 cases on the left eye. Lesions associated were dominated by iris prolapse with 7 (35%) cases of variable scale (**Figure 1**), post traumatic cataract that quickly grow in 6 (30%) cases and the hyphema in 4 (20%) cases mostly associated to the iris prolapse (**Table 3**).

Table 2. Natures of traumatising agent.

	Number of patients	%
Sharp		
Bit of wood	7	35
Edges of scissors	1	5
Knife	1	5
Piece of CD	1	5
Broom twig	1	5
Piece of bone	1	5
Edge of pencil	1	5
Piece of broken bottle	1	5
Blunts		
Stick	3	15
Non identified	2	10

CD: compact disc.



Figure 1. Wounds in zone I with iris prolapsed.

Table 3. Associated lesions to global injuries.

	Number of patients	%
Iris prolapse	7	35
Cataract	6	30
Hyphema	4	20
Others*	3	15

*vitreous way out, bulb physics and eyelid wound.

4. Discussion

In 18 months 20 cases of children's global injuries were identified that is more than 13 cases per year a really high rate as compared to Beby *et al.* [5] 57 cases (11 cases/year) within 5 years and Bunting *et al.* [6] 131 (7 cases/year) within 17 years. As the Campus Teaching Hospital of Lomé is the only one hospital in Togo endowed with a paediatric ophthalmology unit, this was put in service since January 2015. All of the southern part of Togo and even the whole country paediatric ophthalmological emergencies are referred thereto.

Children of school age were more concerned which in fact is in accordance with the review [6] [7] [8] [9] as they are more involved in children's games and the ignorance of the potential accidents that can happen while manipulating some materials. Contrarily to various studies which confirm male predominance [9] [10], our study has rather noted female predominance. Are females becoming more and more interested in violent games just as young boys? Only 8 over 20 cases (40%) have been received in emergency in 24 hours, this delay of consultation has been late compared to Ojabo *et al.* [10] study that reported 71 (80%) cases over 89 cases in 24 hours. The fact that children suffering from trauma are not transferred in time to be taken care of is due to the fact that the mostly live far away from the hospital. The traumatising agents were generally sharp. This is why globe injuries are particularly penetrating at 75% but only 10% for rupture in our study. Other authors have come up with different rates such as 54% and 65.7% for penetrating trauma 34% and 22.4% for rupture of the globe [11] [12]. But Gilbert *et al.* [13] in their study have rather found that globe ruptures were more frequent with a varying frequency from 39% to 43.2%. Bit of wood was the first cause contrarily to the study of Beby *et al.* [5] which reported knife or scissors in 17.5% and the wood in 14%. The fact that most of these children are coming from rural zone and the fact that sticks are mainly used in their games and also as they are involved in farm activities can be the major explanation to these accidents. The fact that the wounds are unilateral is not new to journals [5] [12]. Various studies [7] [12] [14] have pointed out the predominance of injury in zone I at 64%, 58% and 61.8% as this study shows (85.71%). These very studies also show that 31.4% and 4% of injury in zone III contrarily to our study that finds no wound related in zone III. The high proportion of the wounds in zone I may be understood by the predominance of the perforating trauma. Iris prolapse and the cataract were found as associated lesions but at relatively low rates respectively in 35% and 30%. Other study has shown that

uveal prolapse is the first lesion connected in 93% of the cases second by the cataract in 43% of the cases but at much more high rate [7].

5. Conclusion

Globe injuries were in majority penetrating traumas due to the manipulation of sharpen materials in rural zones. The best treatment remains prevention by forbidding violent games in order to avoid jeopardising visual functions and children's schooling.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Ethical Approval

Approval for the study was obtained from the national medical ethic committee.

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