

Original Research Article

Mandibular Fractures in Kashmiri Population

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Abstract: Maxillofacial injuries of which mandible fractures is a common phenomenon are very common now due to increased traffic, alcoholism and have a significant functional, anatomic and aesthetic impact on facial region. The aim of the study was to study the pattern of mandibular fractures in Kashmiri population. A prospective study was carried out which included 240 patients to study the etiology, gender distribution and type of mandible fracture present in maxillofacial region in a Kashmiri population. The study showed that 73.3 % were males and 26.7% were females, about 62.9% had suffered fracture due to RTA, followed by 13.7% due to falls and 17.9% by assault. About 53.7% of patients had mandible fractures, of which 20.9% times it was parasymphyseal fractures. The study establishes that mandibular fractures are very common in Kashmir in maxillofacial region due to road traffic accidents.

Keywords: Fracture, Mandibular, Road traffic accident.

INTRODUCTION

Facial fractures are predominantly found in young people as they are mostly involved in outdoor activities. Disruption of maxillofacial skeleton causes cosmetic, functional and anatomic derangement of the facial skeleton. Due to increased demands of vehicular traffics by the increasing population of the underdeveloped countries the incidence of trauma is increasing in frequency with significant burden on economy. Maxillofacial trauma is now very common due to high speed travel, increasingly outdoor activities and intolerance in society which is the cause of interpersonal fights. Mandibular fractures are one of the commonest encountered facial trauma. There is increase in frequency and severity of the maxillofacial injuries [1]. The mandible being only movable bone in skull with less bone support due to presence of teeth and its peculiar anatomic location make it one of the susceptible bones to fracture in the facial skeleton. The mandible is the largest and strongest bone of the face and is second most commonly fractured bone after nasal bone [2]. About 36% to 54% of all fractures in the maxillofacial region are accounted by mandible, followed by the maxilla (46%), the zygoma accounts for (27%), and the nasal bones (19.5%) [3]. The mandibular fractures occur twice as often as midfacial fractures [4]. The energy required to fracture mandible being of the order of 44.6–74.4 kg/m, which is about the same as the zygoma and about half that for the frontal bone [5-8]. The literature suggests that about four times as much force is required to fracture maxilla [9]. The etiological factors suggested for maxillofacial fractures world wide

are, road traffic accidents, assaults, falls, arms and ammunition, and sport-related injuries. Since alcohol consumption is a well-known contributing factor suggested to cause mandibular fractures. The susceptibility to facial injuries is also determined by the socioeconomic factors, demographic location, road traffic legislation and laws to deal with violence and interpersonal relations. The etiology and pattern of mandibular fracture vary considerably among different study populations. There is overall shift in the mechanism of injury and age distribution of patients sustaining these injuries and are well-documented in literature. The etiological factors responsible for fracture and direction of traumatic force are extremely helpful in diagnosis. The fractures sustained in vehicular accidents are usually different in location and pattern than those sustained in personal altercation. The magnitude of forces can be very much greater in victims of automobile and motorcycle accidents and they tend to have multiple mandibular fractures, whereas single, nondisplaced fractures are usually sustained by victims of personal altercation. There is limited knowledge about the incidence, diagnosis and treatment of mandibular fractures and the specific type or pattern of mandibular fractures despite abundance of literature. Kashmir valley is noticing increased incidence in traffic accidents due to congested and unplanned road infrastructure. Because of increased road traffic accidents and insurgency in Kashmir valley we undertook this study.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was designed and undertaken in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Govt Dental College Srinagar. About 240 patients of facial trauma were examined who had come for the treatment of facial injuries. The patients were evaluated for cause of trauma, gender and type of mandibular fracture. A thorough clinical examination was carried out in all the patients and necessary radiographic imaging was ordered and studied. At least two radiographs at right angles to each other were advised to rule out fracture as most of the times oedema in such patients blunts the clinical examination and diagnosis of the fracture becomes obscure. The indirect fractures of the mandible are common due to force and fulcrum variation, it is recommended to take radiograph of both the sides to rule out fracture. The age group studied was 15-65 years. The patients were informed about the study and a proper consent for the same was obtained from them

verbally and in written format. The variables studied were age, sex, type of facial fracture and etiological factor of injury. The data was entered into master chart and studied. An ethical clearance for the same was sought from the ethical committee. The study was not funded from any source

RESULTS

Out of 240 patients studied 73.3% were males and 26.7% were females (Table 1), about 62.9% had suffered fracture due to RTA, followed by 13.7% due to falls, and 17.9% by assault, 04 patients reported with gunshot injuries. About 5 patients reported with fractures had underlying pathology and 4 patients reported with fracture due to extraction (table 2). out of 240 patients 53.7% of patients had mandibular fractures (table 3), of which 20.9% had parasymphseal fractures (table 4).

Table 1: Gender distribution of studied subjects

Males	176(73.3%)
Females	64(26.6%)
Total	240

Table 2: Etiology of fractures

Road Traffic Accidents	151 (62.9%)
Falls	33(13.7%)
Assaults	43(17.91%)
Gun shot injury	4(1.66%)
Pathology(underlying)	5(2.08%)
Miscellaneous(Dental Extraction etc)	4(1.66%)

Table 3: Type of facial injury

Mandibular	129(53.75%)
Other facial fractures	111(46.25%)

Table 4: Type of Mandibular fracture

Symphysis	10(7.75%)
Parasymphysis	27(20.9%)
Angle	20(16.6%)
Body	16(12.4%)
Condyle	6(4.65%)
Coronoid	1(0.7%)
Combination of mandibular fractures	49(37.98%)

DISCUSSION

The divergent shifts in the society and increased pace of life with unregulated traffic have increased the complexities of the injuries to the face, mandible being the only mobile and most active bone in facial skeleton is affected commonly. The maxillo-facial region occupies the most prominent position in the human body, and is usually highly vulnerable to injuries [10]. The literature reports various etiological factors and pattern of maxillo-facial injuries and they vary from one geographical area to another, depending

on the socio-economic status, geographic condition and cultural characteristics [11-13].

In our study the predominance of male sex (73.3%) over female sex is seen, this is consistent to most other studies of the world because males are more involved in outdoor activities like driving, sports, interpersonal violence etc particularly in Asian part of the world men more frequently involved than females in such activities [14-16].

There is huge difference in the etiological factors in developing and developed countries. The most of our fractures studied are due to road traffic accidents (62.9%) which is consistent with the other studies of the world. The predominance of road traffic accidents is related to the less regulated traffic, increasing population and overcrowded markets [17-19].

The predominance of mandibular fractures (53.7%) compared to other facial fractures is consistent with the other studies like Szontagh E [20] and Chandra Sekhar [1]. The anatomic location of fracture correlates significantly with the mechanism of injury and this co-relation dictates the establishment of diagnostic and treatment setup for faciomaxillary trauma patients for successful clinicians. The assault and gunshot victims are more likely to suffer body and angle fractures than expected parasymphyseal fractures. The symphyseal/ parasymphyseal fractures are very common in automobile injury patients and they have fewer body fractures than trauma from a fist or other blunt objects to lateral portions of the jaw, predisposing such patients to fractures in the angle and body regions of the mandible. The posteriosuperiorly directed forces in injured patients in accidents such as falls and being struck by vehicles where chin receives the primary force of impact should be suspected of having condylar and sub-condylar injuries [21].

Amongst the all mandibular fracture cases studied in the present study, parasymphyseal fracture was highest in number (20.9%). These findings are comparable with studies carried out Buchanan *et al* [22, 23]. Similar findings of parasymphysis being the commonest of fracture are reported by Giri *et al* [24]. The long root of canine root weakening the structure of the mandible makes the parasymphyseal fracture a very common occurrence. The other reason cited for being the commonest site of fracture is that the bone fracture at site of tensile strain since their resistance compressive force is greater. Mandible is not a smooth curve in a uniform cross-section being similar to an architectural arch and tends to distribute the applied force along its entire length. This particular feature leads to greater development of force per unit area in certain areas resulting in increased concentration of tensile strength leading to a fracture at the site of maximum convexity of the curvature [25]. In other studies the other common sites found are symphysis [26, 27], body [28, 29], angle [30, 31] and condyle [32, 33]. The difference suggested is mostly related to etiological factors with road traffic being commonest in underdeveloped countries compared to falls and interpersonal violence in developed nations [34].

CONCLUSION

Mandibular symphyseal and parasymphyseal are common in Kashmiri population with the main causative factor being road traffic accidents compared to western part of the world where assaults and other

injuries are the etiologic factors rather than road traffic accidents. Necessary traffic regulations are very important to bring down the frequency of road accidents.

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