

Occupational ocular trauma (causes management and prevention)

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Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, Karachi

A study of occupational trauma was conducted at ophthalmology department of Abbasi Shaheed Hospital, Karachi from January 2000–December 2000. Purpose of the study was: to find out probable causes and extent of ocular trauma and its management and determine measures for control and prevention of these injuries. 100 cases of ocular trauma were studied over a period of one year. Out of 100 cases 72 patients were of occupational ocular trauma. The number of patients increased from February to April and August to November and agricultural trauma was most prevalent during this period. Common articles causing injury were thorns and stones among the farmers and flying particles and projectile foreign bodies amongst the industrial workers. Males were most commonly involved between the ages of 31–40 years of age as compared to females. Penetrating and blunt trauma were more commonly seen as compared to chemical and electric burns. Postoperative complications were monitored. Common causes of poor visual prognosis were corneal opacities, post-operative astigmatism and posterior capsular thickening. Main causes of ocular trauma were ignorance about protective measures and lack of education amongst the workers. Suggestions are made to handle such problems at primary health care centers to decrease time lag. Proper first aid treatment should be provided there. Secondary and tertiary care centers should staff in this field so as to deal with these ocular emergencies in proper ways.