Journal of Spine Practice November 2021
DOI: 10.18502/jsp.v1i1.9765

Oral Presentation

Consequences of Delayed Surgical Treatment of Traumatic Spinal Cord Injuries: Tertiary Centre Experience

Faisal M. Konbaz[1], Sami I. AlEissa[1], Abdulrahman Y. AlHabeeb[3], Thamer S. AlHowaish[3], Ghada S. Alhamed[1], Emad M. Masudi[2,4], Majed S. Abalkhail[1], Fahad H. AlHelal[1]

[1]Department of orthopedic surgery, Ministry of the National Guard – health Affairs, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
[2]King Abdullah International Medical Research Center, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
[3]King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
[4]Department of Medical Education, Collage of Medicine, King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Science, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Introduction

Owing to its disabling consequences, spinal cord injury is devastating for both patients and their healthcare providers. There are many causes of spinal cord injury, the most common by far being motor vehicle accident (MVA). Unfortunately, in neglected injuries, many complications and poor outcomes could be encountered. This research aimed to assess the causes, consequences, and outcomes of neglected traumatic spinal cord injuries.

Methodology

Out of the 750 cases reviewed between February 2016 and February 2021, 18 cases matched our inclusion criteria which was any Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury (TSCI) with neurological deficit requiring surgical intervention more than 14 days from the index trauma. The following variables were measured: patients' demographics, injury, management, delay, complication, and hospital course characteristics. American Spinal Injury Association (ASIA) Impairment Scale scores were recorded at presentation and final follow-up.

Result

Out of the 18 neglected TSCI patients, 72.2% were male. Patients' mean age at the time of injury was 36.8 years, and 77.8% of them were from outside Riyadh. The mechanism of injury was MVA in all patients. Delay in referral to a tertiary hospital was the main cause accounting for 88.9%. The mean duration of neglect was 43 days. Improvement in ASIA score was found in two patients. Bedsores and DVT were found in 55.5% and 27.8%, respectively. Postoperatively, 77% of the patients were admitted to the ICU. Most patients (12) were unable to join a specialized spinal cord injury rehabilitation center postoperatively.

Conclusion

Early referral of all traumatic spinal cord injury patients is highly encouraged to prevent short- and long-term complications.

Correspondence

Dr. Faisal Mohammedsaleh Konbaz

Email: Faisal_konbaz@yahoo.com

How to cite this article: Konbaz FM, AlEissa SI, AlHabeeb AY, AlHowaish TS, Alhamed GS, Masudi EM, Abalkhail MS, AlHelal FH. Consequences of delayed surgical treatment of traumatic spinal cord injuries: Tertiary centre experience. Journal of Spine Practice. 2021;1(1):5–5. DOI: 10.18502/jsp.v1i1.9765