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LETTER TO EDITOR

Unintentional Pediatric Trauma in the Emergency Department

Dear Editor,

We read the publication on "unintentional pediatric trauma in the emergency department" with a great interest. Prabhakar Abhilash *et al*. concluded that "The injury profile changes through increasing age groups, with the older children adopting adult trauma characteristics. The epidemiological profile of trauma patients from our ED may be used to develop injury prevention programs focusing on peridomestic safety among children <12 years and school and road safety among children >12 years and adolescents."[1] We would like to share ideas on this issue. First, the pattern of trauma varies in different time and place. The short period of observation cannot tell the exact epidemiological data. The season might affect the pattern of trauma. In our country, tropical country in Indochina, the accident incidence is very high during rainy season (May to August) and the common trauma in that time is usually related to raining and flooding. In addition, due to the good transportation system, the road accident is possible for children at any age ground. For the children <12 years, it is agreeable that the peridomestic trauma is common. Nevertheless, an important cause that should not be forgotten is the child abuse, which is an intentional event.[2] In fact, it is very hard to judge that a trauma case is an international or unintentional. If the practitioner overlooks the possibility of child abuse, the case is easily underdiagnosed. Finally, we would like to suggest for strategies for prevention the occurrence of pediatric accidental trauma. In each setting, there should be a system for epidemiological surveillance to gather data on pediatric trauma. Priority setting and preventive planning for important problems are necessary. The health education on specific accident and injury prevention for both children and parents is required. In addition, the local government should implement the warning sign and preventive apparatus in any public risk areas.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

Beuy Joob[1], Viroj Wiwanitkit[2,3]

[1]Sanitation 1 Medical Academic Center, [3]Department of Laboratory Medicine, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, [2]Department of Biological Science, Joseph Ayobabalola University, Ikeji-Arakeji, Nigeria

Corresponding Author: Dr. Beuy Joob, Sanitation 1 Medical Academic Center, Bangkok Thailand. E-mail: beuyjoob@hotmail.com

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