

Economic Burden Caused By Nonlicenced Adolescence Motorcyclists In Orthopedic Department Hospital Seri Manjung

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PURPOSE:

To estimate the medical costs and economic burden to ministry of Health caused by Road Traffic Accidents (RTA) among adolescence below 16 years old.

MATERIALS & METHODS:

A retrospective, cross-sectional study conducted to review all inpatient records of motorcycle accident cases involving adolescents of age less than 16 years old from 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2016. The data is about hospitalization cost based on class and duration of admission, x-ray, blood investigations, operation, implant and physiotherapy. “Buku AKTA FI 1951” and “Kepingan Caj Wad” was used as reference.

RESULTS:

80 patients were included in this study. 75 patients sustained varies type of fractures and 5 patients were treated as soft tissue injury (figure 1). Types of fixation for the fractures were K-wire insertion, plating, screw fixation, external fixation and some were immobilized using pop application. Cost was calculated based on standard practice by billing unit. The estimated hospitalization cost for fracture treatment is RM 25957 (figure 2).

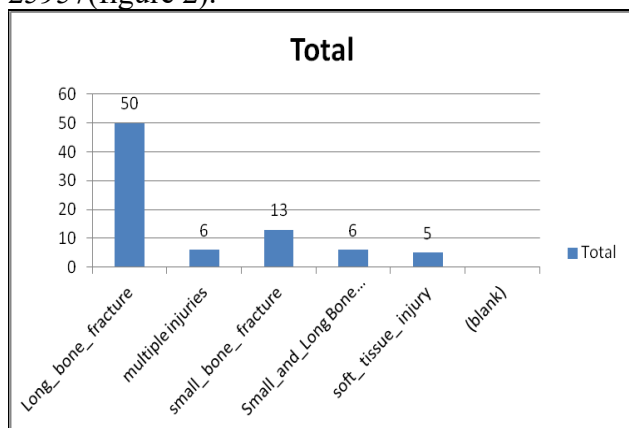


Figure 1: Type of injuries

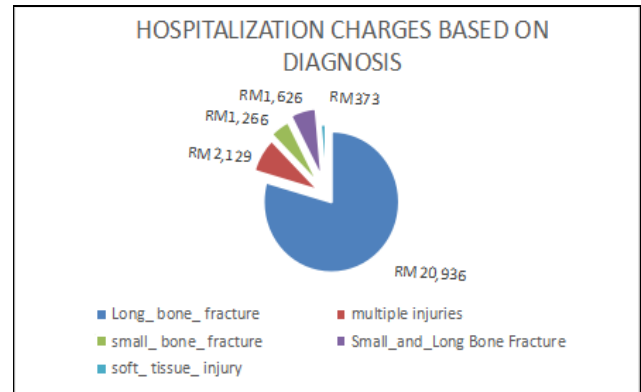


Figure 2: Cost based on injury

DISCUSSIONS:

According to Laws of Malaysia, no person under sixteen years of age shall drive a motor vehicle on a road.¹ However we are seeing many unlicensed adolescences are riding motorbike and they cost a lot to our government due to RTA.

Based on “Buku AKTA FI 1951” those are still schooling, hospitalization charges will be covered by government.² The costs mention above is just a estimation for inpatients in 2 years in HSM. The miscellaneous charges not in the list are dressing, materials, medications, meals, drips, branula, needles, syringes and doctors’ fees.

Poor implementation of law and lack of parental monitoring and irresponsibility act of adolescence are something that we must look into.

Limitations of this study are lack data and documentation on trauma cases.

CONCLUSION:

A lot of money wasted in the medical management of these group which can be avoided, if proper measures are implemented.

REFERENCES:

1. Act 333. Road Transport Act 1987, s 39
2. Akta Fi (Perubatan) 1951. Pindaan 2017. P.U. (A) 363, 1-439