

Epidemiology of Spinal Cord Injuries at Grootte Schuur Hospital

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Introduction

Spinal Cord injury is detrimental to both the patient and their community. It leads to a loss of productivity and an increased dependence on others. Despite this, very little data is available regarding its epidemiology in South Africa, and the data that is available is outdated. This study aims to fill the gap in the current pool of data

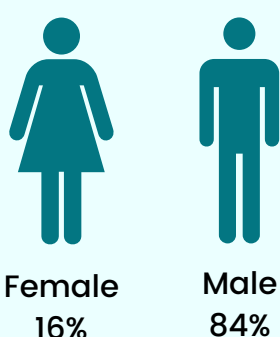
Method

A retrospective review of admissions to the GSH ASCI unit logged onto a prospective database from 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2014 using the ASIA score to monitor neurological status

Results

2042 patients in total

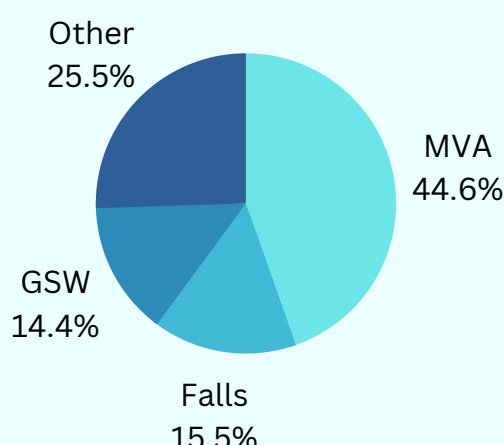
Gender



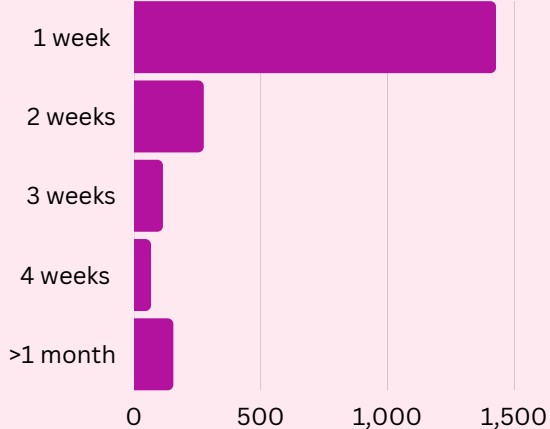
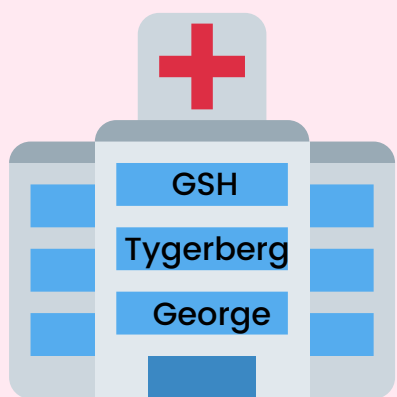
Age

Average: 34
Most Common: 21-30

Aetiology

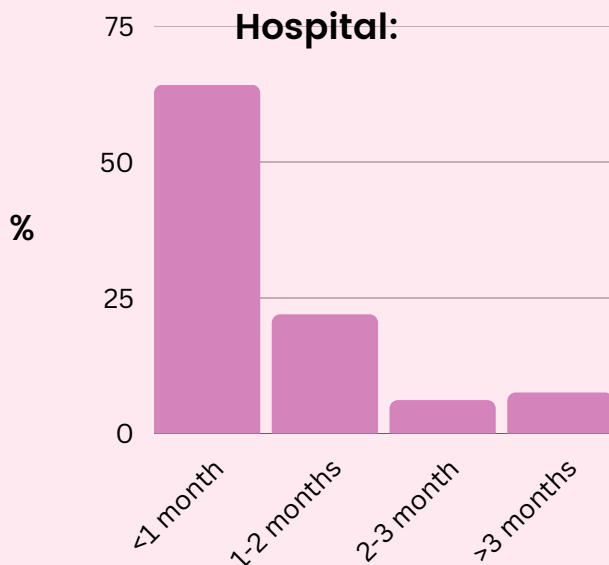


Top Referring Hospitals



Time between injury and admission

Length of Stay in Hospital:



Peak periods of SCI:



Level of Injury

Cervical
59.3%

Thoracic
27.2%

Lumbosacral
11.2%

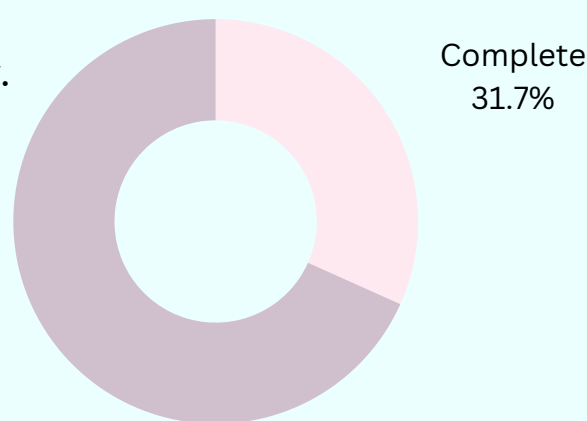
Outcome

Patients managed surgically.
64.6%

Mortality Rate:
2.2%

Incomplete
68.3%

Neurological Status



Conclusion

The typical patient presenting to GSH with a Spinal Cord Injury is a 21-30 year old male who was in an MVA in the month of December. His level of injury would most likely be cervical and incomplete. His chances of survival is high and he would likely be discharged from the hospital in less than 1 month.

Sothmann J, Stander J, Kruger N, Dunn R. Epidemiology of acute spinal cord injuries in the Grootte Schuur hospital acute spinal cord injury (GSH ASCI) unit, Cape Town, South Africa, over the past 11 years. South African Medical Journal. 2015;105(10):835-9.