

## Brazilian Oral Research

Print version ISSN 1806-8324

## Abstract

CHRCANOVIC, Bruno Ramos et al. Facial fractures: a 1-year retrospective study in a hospital in Belo Horizonte. *Braz. oral res.* [online]. 2004, vol.18, n.4, pp. 322-328. ISSN 1806-8324. doi: 10.1590/S1806-8324200400040009.

A retrospective study was performed to assess facial fractures in patients treated at a public hospital in Belo Horizonte, in 2000. The data collected included age, gender, etiology, distribution of maxillofacial trauma considering day of the week and month, anatomic site of the fracture, and treatment. The analyses involved descriptive statistics and chi-squared test, Bonferroni test and analysis of variance. A total of 1,326 facial fractures were found in 911 patients. Most fractures occurred in adults with age ranging from 21 to 30 years. Men were more affected than women, with a male-female ratio of 4.69:1. Accidents causing facial fractures occurred predominantly on weekends. Bicycle and motorcycle accidents were the major cause of trauma, followed by interpersonal violence, automobile accidents, and falls. When the relation between the gender and the etiology of facial fractures was

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analyzed, a significant relation was noted between these variables (p < 0.001). There was also a relation between the patients' age and the site of the fractures (p = 0.0014). The mandible was found to be the most commonly fractured bone in the facial skeleton, followed by the zygomatic complex and the nose. A non-surgical approach was chosen in most cases. There were significant differences between the kind of treatment applied and the site of the fracture (p < 0.001).

Keywords: Maxillary fractures; Mandibular fractures; Facial injuries; Epidemiologic studies.

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