

A mortal accident caused by a broken toilet seat cover

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Abstract

According to hospital records, a 36 years old, 1.75 m in length, average weight man was brought to Izmir Bozyaka Training and Research Hospital by 112 ambulance at 01/07/2011, 21:20 PM with an injury caused by fracture of toilet seat cover when he was sitting. In the examination, a 20 cm length oblique section with active bleeding was seen at the right gluteal region and superior gluteal artery and vein injury was detected. Department of orthopedics controlled bleeding, patient admitted to intensive care unit but he was accepted as dead at 06:35 AM.

Keywords: Superior Gluteal Artery, Vein Injury

Introduction

According to World Health Organization (WHO), an accident is an incident that occurs unwillingly and causes physical and mental damage by a sudden external force. Accidents are generally classified according to the locations where they occur [1, 2]. An accident that occurs in a home or around it are named as home accident and these are thought as a serious public health problem due to common related injuries [1]. Injuries can be categorized by intent: unintentional or 'accidental' and intentional. Unintentional are road traffic injuries, poisoning, drowning, falls and burns. Injuries can also be classified by place and activity e.g. home or leisure accidents, occupational [3, 4]. Accidents are a major cause of death, injury, and lost productivity, and they impose a heavy financial burden [5]. Injuries impose one of the greatest health risks in terms of mortality and morbidity among adolescents and young adults [6]. Worldwide, injuries are leading causes of death in all age groups [7].

In this study, case ended with death by a broken toilet seat cover is presented and it is aimed to review preventive measures to avoid these accidents.

Case

According to hospital records, a 36 years old, 1.75 m in length, average weight man was brought to Izmir Bozyaka Training and Research Hospital by 112 ambulance at 01/07/2011, 21:20 PM with an injury caused by fracture of toilet seat

cover when he was sitting. In the examination, a 20 cm length oblique section with active bleeding was seen at the right gluteal region and superior gluteal artery and vein injury was detected. Department of orthopedics controlled bleeding, patient admitted to intensive care unit but he was accepted as dead at 06:35 AM.

Autopsy was performed by Division of Council of Forensic Medicine in Izmir. At the external examination; it is seen that there are surgical sutures in the right gluteal region (Picture 1). Autopsy showed bleeding from right superior gluteal artery and vein injury as the cause of death (Picture 2).

Specimens were taken for toxicological analysis. On toxicological analyze, there is no toxic substance at blood and urine.

Discussion

Home accidents are an important and under-estimated public health issue and an important and under-estimated housing issue. Unintentional injuries within the home environment have not been recognized to the same extent as road traffic or occupational injuries [8, 9]. The majority of injuries of children under five and people aged 75 and over occur in the home [10, 11].

According to Kaz'ar G et al [12], home accidents constitute approximately the half of all accidents and show an increasing tendency. 35% of all injuries occurred within home environments in Sweden [12] and therapeutic measures for a home

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accident victim costs approximately 1,300 USD annually in Norway [13] and, in France, 10 % of all public health costs is caused by home accidents [2].

Picture 1. Surgical sutures in the right gluteal region



The home environment is an important setting for unintentional injuries. About one fifth of all fatal unintentional injuries take place in a home [14]. In the Netherlands each year, approximately 17 injuries per 100 inhabitants are medically treated; three-quarters of these are home and leisure accidents [7].

Picture 2. Right superior gluteal artery and vein injury



In the New Zealand it was estimated that there was an associated increase in the odds ratio of a home injury occurrence of 22% (16). In Turkey, various studies show that home accidents account for 18–25% of all accidents [1]. The proportion of fatal home accidents among all fatal accidents in the UK in 1990 was 2.5%, while in Turkey this was 5.7% [1].

Falls were most common followed by burns, electrocutions and poisonings [2, 15]. The toilet was the most common site of home accident followed by the sitting room, the kitchen, the bedroom and the dining room [15]. In our case, accident was occurred in the toilet.

The literature on the prevention of home accidents mention various measures, mainly defining sources of potential danger according to the psychological and motor development of children appreciating that all children, regardless of the age, are at enhanced risk for home accidents, education of parents and attending personal, home-

safety measures on the basis of legal regulations, home-designing and production of safe household articles, special safety regulations for household equipment's and environmental conditions, labeling of chemical agent containers, supervision of home-safety measures by inspectors and financial support for families to safety-improving measures [2].

Fatal home accidents have increased seriously in recent years. To prevent home accidents, with some behavioral changes, home equipment's and products must be produced appropriately for home security.

Preventing home accidents with essential measures will not only avoid lots of many injuries and deaths but will also avoid unnecessary economic losses in health expenditures.

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