

Title: Traumatic Brain Injury Occurring at Work

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Abstract

Introduction : Traumatic brain injury (TBI) occurring in the workplace carries major economic repercussions such as lost wages and hospital costs. Little is known about the profile of risk factors for work-related traumatic brain injury. **Aims :** This study compared the pre-injury demographic, injury-related characteristics and outcomes of work-related TBI with those of non work-related TBI. This study aimed to provide profiles of work-related TBI to improve our understanding and awareness of TBI in the workplace, to better inform prevention efforts. **Methods :** Cross-sectional study using the Comprehensive Data Set (CDS) of Ontario Trauma Registry (OTR) from 1993 to 2001. Cases with the ICD-9-CM codes for head injury were included in the database of serious injuries from lead trauma hospitals. **Results :** The study identified 950 (7.3%) work-related TBI. Pre-injury demographics and injury-related characteristics of work-related TBI were significantly different from non work-related TBI, such as age, gender, mechanism of injury, Injury Severity Score, length of stay and in-hospital death. Temporal and geographical variations were also different among the types of occupations.

Discussion: This research provides the first comprehensive overview of work-related TBI based on Canadian data. It identified high risk profiles to better target prevention.

Keywords: epidemiology, traumatic brain injury, work-related, Ontario Trauma Registry