

TRAUMA

Changing patterns in interpersonal violence, self harm and domestic violence
in the Covid-19 outbreak

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Background

- Since 2011, published studies with Maxillary Facial team
- Face and neck penetrating trauma
- Data collected from Major Trauma database kept by the Trauma Nurses
- Comparisons made with previous years
- Analysed numbers of :Interpersonal violence, (IPV), Self harm (SH), domestic violence (DV) (2018-Terror related violence (TRV))
- Percentage increase with increasing attendances to the ED

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Penetrating head & neck trauma – Epidemiology and injury characteristics in terror-related violence, interpersonal violence and deliberate self-harm at a level 1 trauma centre

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Penetrating trauma to the head and neck presents specific clinical challenges. Aetiologies include interpersonal violence, deliberate self-harm and terror-related violence. King's College Hospital is a Major Trauma Centre serving inner-city London boroughs with a high incidence of knife and gun crime. It also received victims of a terrorist attack at London Bridge in June 2017.

Methods: Data was collected prospectively on all patients presenting with penetrating trauma to the head and neck over a one-year period (August 2016–July 2017).

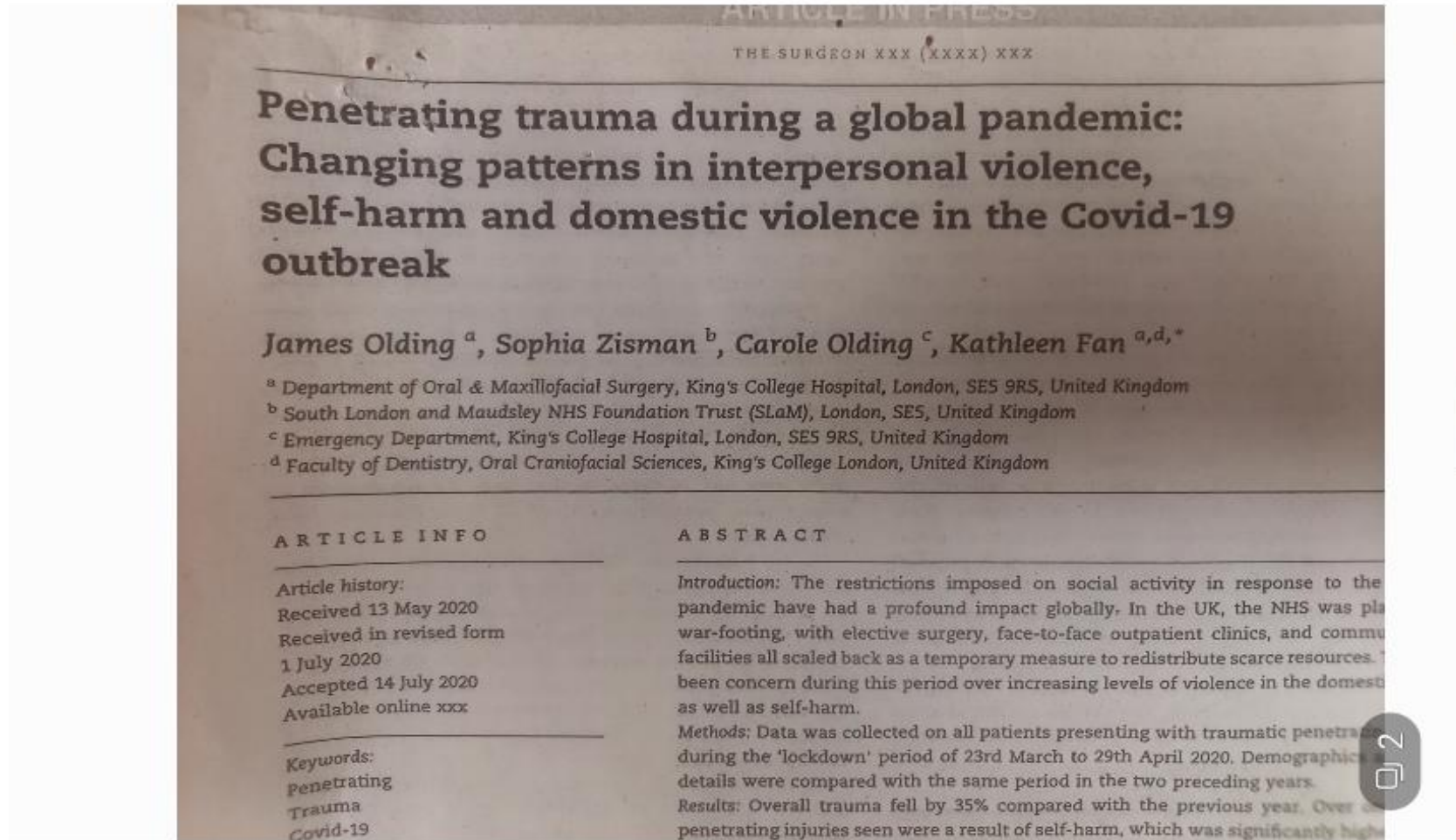
April 2019



2020 Lockdown

- Data collected on all trauma attendances between Monday 23rd March and Monday 29th April
- Representing first 5 weeks of lockdown
- Data collected prospectively, reviewed retrospectively
- Data for the paper was penetrating trauma as in previous years
- Demographic information, injury aetiology, body part
- Reviewed data from same 5 week period in 2018 and 2019 for comparison.

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ED Admissions vs Trauma cases

- April 2018
- ED admissions:-2208
- Trauma :- 229

April 2019
ED admissions:-2525
Trauma:-187

- April 2020
- ED admissions:-1351
- Trauma:- 85

April 2021
ED admissions:-1695
Trauma:- 158

March/April 2020

- Lockdown:- stay at home message
- Pre hospital Triage Tool reviewed, more patients to stay locally that previously would have met triage tool for Major Trauma Centre (MTC)
- Decrease in ED attendances including major trauma
- Loss of support services for inpatients/outpatients due to redeployment
- Loss of face to face services for vulnerable groups
- Trauma Nurse Coordination team redeployment, service run by 1 WTE and 1 16.5 hours per week.

Results

- 2018-2020 main aetiological groups were Interpersonal violence (IPV) and self harm (SH)
- April 2018/2019/2020
- 2018:- IPV represented 96% of total penetrating trauma cases
- 2019:- IPV represented 89% of total of penetrating trauma cases
- 2020:- IPV represented 63% of total of penetrating trauma cases

Self Harm(SH)

- 2018:- April
- SH represented 2% of presenting cases

- 2019:-April
- SH represented 11% of presenting cases

- 2020:-April
- SH represented 27% of presenting cases

April 2020

- Demographics of the self harm group:-
- All were male except 1 female
- Average age was 38.5
- Age range 14-72
- SH account for 1 in 4 cases of penetrating injury
- 2019 previous study, average age was 30.9 with 57% being female
- Injury mechanism included a shotgun, broken glass, razor blade and kitchen knife.
- Injuries involving the head and neck involved 7 patients, 4 of these representing 57% were self harm

- Results show a shift towards older males during this period
- Head & neck penetrating trauma significant injuries suggesting serious suicidal intent
- Case 1
- 72 year old male, sole carer for 22 years for wife with MS
- Every Sunday he would cook Sunday lunch for son and grand daughter
- Monday 30/03/2020 @ 07:50 arrived as trauma call. Significant injuries to throat to expose larynx , trachea, vocal cords. Awake.

- Case 2.
- 15 year old boy with special needs, able to go to school but his support worker refused to come in for fear of Covid-19.
- Lived in Margate with mother and siblings.
- Found at bottom on cliffs, awake with significant injuries. Taken to local hospital for RSI and transfer by air by KSS HEMS to KCH. 22/04/20
- Went for craniotomy for traumatic subarachnoid haemorrhage
- Bilateral femoral fractures
- Admitted 22/04/20 RIP 26/04/20

Domestic violence (DV)

- The study looked at penetrating trauma but recognised that many injuries involved from domestic abuse involve blunt trauma.
- Department saw an increase in domestic violence including emotional abuse, coercive control, sexual abuse
- During the study period the most serious case of DV involved a male perpetrator against female partner, with multiple serious stab wounds to the chest
- Charity Refuge during this period reported a 50% rise in calls to it's help line

Discussion

- Significant fall in overall penetrating trauma by 35% during this lockdown period
- Changes in delivery of psychiatric services as well as youth services and other support services to most marginalised individuals
- Reluctance to attend ED for fear of contacting Covid-19 leading to delayed presentations & heightened levels of distress in the community
- Increase in other psychological stressors associated with suicide and self harm
- Financial stress, domestic violence, unemployment and alcohol consumption
- Isolation from family and friends

Conclusion

- IPV and SH are the 2 most commonly seen aetiologies seen at our centre
- Violence disproportionately affects those who are more disadvantaged
- Measures to reduce knife crime are well documented & publicised
- During this lockdown period, clear shift towards self inflicted injuries
- Continuing use of lockdown requires identifying those most at risk and urgent implementation of measures to help individuals and groups most at risk.

Next

Continuing to exam the data

Paper covering November 2020 to February 2021 half completed

Since April 2021 surge in numbers attending ED being admitted including trauma numbers.

April :- ED 1695

Trauma 158

May :- ED 1780

Trauma 165

Questions

- Should the NHS in future lockdown to save it being overwhelmed for any reason?
- Is it then acceptable for mass collateral damage within the population?
- Is it ethical to restrict access to the NHS for any reason?

- Any Questions?

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