Aetiology and Distribution of Mandibular Fractures in the National University Hospital, Singapore

W K S Tan,* BDS, MDS, FRACDS (Aust), T C Lim,** AM (Mol), MBBS, FRCS

Abstract

Sixty-seven consecutive mandibular fractures treated mainly in 1998 were surveyed retrospectively. Treatment was performed at the National University Hospital, Singapore. Males outnumbered females by 5:1, with Chinese the commonest racial group involved (56.7%). Most patients were between 20 and 29 years of age. Road traffic accidents formed the largest proportion (61.2%) followed by industrial accidents and assaults. The symphyseal and parasymphyseal regions were most commonly fractured (46.5%). Almost a third of the patients sustained other facial fractures. Treatment was commonly administered within one to two days of discovery of the fracture and open reduction was the treatment plan of choice in 79.1% of the time. Discussion on how aetiology affects the fracture pattern in Singapore is carried out.

Key words: Condylar, Industrial, Road traffic accidents, Symphyseal, Treatment

* Registrar
  Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, National University Hospital
  Assistant Professor
  Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Faculty of Dentistry, National University of Singapore

** Consultant Plastic Surgeon
  Department of Surgery, National University Hospital
  Associate Professor
  Division of Surgery, National University of Singapore

Address for Reprints: Dr Winston Tan Kwong Shen, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, National University Hospital, 5 Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119074.