

ORIGINAL PAPER

Epidemiology map of traumatic spinal cord injuries: A global overview

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Abstract

Background: Traumatic spinal cord injury (TSCI) represents a serious medical problem for society on all continents. This review provides the epidemiology of TSCI from 1978-2009. It explores the incidence, demography, aetiology of injury, secondary complications, length of stay and provides strategies for improved prevention.

Aim: This study summarizes the available data about the epidemiological data of traumatic spinal cord injuries worldwide.

Methods: A systematic review in PubMed was conducted.

Results: The incidence rates varied greatly among continents. Most of patients with TSCI are young men between 20 to 30 years with road accidents as the leading cause of injury worldwide. The majority of studies reported a high incidence of injury in cervical region.

Conclusions: There is a need for improved methods of registration of TSCI particularly from the lack of data from countries of Africa. To clarify regional differences, future epidemiological studies should carry out regional incidence. It is obvious the need for enforcement of laws and also for public awareness campaigns and education programmes.

Keywords: spinal cord injury, traumatic, epidemiology, incidence, rehabilitation