

CASE SERIES

IMPACT OF MEDIA ON OCULAR TRAUMA IN OUR SETUP

Danish Zafar¹, Faiza Akram², Zainab Faisal¹¹Department of Ophthalmology, ²Department of Radiology, Ayub Medical College, Abbottabad-Pakistan

Background: Ocular injuries are one of the most common causes of monocular visual impairment and blindness worldwide. However, surveys done in only hospitals underestimate the incidence of oculars trauma. Aim of the study was to draw the attention towards significant increase in eye injuries amongst, or by, the children in few months in our setup following the start of airing of the drama series Ertughral Ghazi on television. It is the need of the day to plan safety strategies for prevention of ocular injuries in children or by the children who view the drama series. **Method:** Case series study was done in Department of Ophthalmology, Ayub Medical and Teaching Institution, Abbottabad from 16th April to 7th June 2021. Results: We had 10 patients with similar type of injuries but with different severity and extent due to wooden arrows while playing out the role of protagonists shown in the Ertughral Ghazi television series. Out of 10 eyes, 2 eyes got blind, 6 eyes were significantly damaged with profound visual loss and 1 eye had only lid laceration while 1 eye had just conjunctival laceration near limbus. **Conclusion:** The current burden of several ocular traumas connected to the playacting by the children mimicking the TV drama has increased. Health education, information dissemination of and safety strategies should be planned and executed to prevent such injuries.

Keywords: Media; Ocular trauma; Ertughral Ghazi

Citation: Zafar D, Akram F, Faisal Z. Impact of media on ocular trauma in our setup. J Ayub Med Coll Abbottabad 2022;34(3 Suppl 1):710–12.

DOI: 10.55519/JAMC-03-S1-9858

INTRODUCTION

Ocular injuries are one of the most common causes of monocular visual impairment and blindness¹ worldwide. However, surveys done in only hospitals underestimate the incidence of oculars trauma. According to available data from ophthalmic literature and WHO blindness data bank, about 55 million eye injuries occurred that restricted activities for more than 1 day each year, 750,000 cases required hospitalization each year. In United States an estimated 2.0–2.4 million cases of eye trauma occur each year, with more than 75% of these becoming uni-ocularly blind.² 70% of ocular trauma are occurring in first two decades of life with significantly higher ratio in males than females.²

World is changing rapidly due to current situation of covid-19. The social settings, enforced by the Covid-19 is affecting every part of life. Children have been restricted to home, as schools have been shut down. With ample time at hand, the Children are exposed to TV screens and mobile gadgets more than ordinary. Online education system has also given them access to these gadgets.

Drama serial Ertugral Ghazi has become a popular entertainment for the families and young kids. With its depiction of a historic past, slick production, memorable dialogues and heroic scenes, the drama seems to have created a yearning of heroic actions amongst the young males. It seems that the playacting by such young children, especially

involving pointed objects (replicating the swords or arrows) have led to an increase the ocular trauma in our setup significantly in past 3 months.

CASE-1

A 10 years old boy presented on 12.5.2021 with right limbal scleral perforation and ciliary prolapse, A/C was full of pus (post traumatic endophthalmitis). V/A was no perception to light in right eye and 6/6 in left eye. He had trauma with wooden arrow. Repair done with intravitreal Antibiotics given.

CASE-2

A 35 years female patient presented on 26.4.2021 with left corneal perforation due to wooden arrow accidentally encountered while her child was playing with it. She had corneal perforation with iris prolapse and traumatic cataract. Her V/A was 6/9 right eye and PL+ve left eye. Lens aspiration and repair done.

CASE-3

A 12 years old patient presented with lower lid laceration on 20.4.2021. He had small laceration on left lower lid 5-6 mm below lid margin. V/A was 6/6 in both eyes. He also had trauma with wooden arrow. Repair done.

CASE-4

An 8 years old child presented with right corneal perforation and traumatic cataract on 16.4.2021. V/A

was hand moment on right side and 6/6 on left side. Lens aspiration and corneal repair done.

CASE-5

A 7 years boy presented with wooden foreign body in A/C with sealed corneal perforation on 27.4.2021. He had similar trauma while playing with wooden stick. Foreign body removed.

CASE-6

An 11 years old male patient presented with corneal perforation with iris prolapse and pus in anterior chamber on 27.4.2021. V/A was perception to light in right eye and 6/9 in left eye. Repair done. Intravitreal Antibiotics given.

CASE-7

An 8 years old boy presented with left corneal perforation while playing with stick. V/A was 6/6 in Right eye and PL+ve on left side with badly damaged globe. Primary repair was done with guarded prognosis.

CASE-8

A 10 years boy presented with right corneal perforation. V/A was hand moment on right side and 6/6 on left side. A/C details were not clear with blood in anterior chamber. Primary repair was done.

CASE-9

A 3 years old boy presented with trauma left eye on 7.6.21. He presented with red eye and was unable to open eye. Examination under anaesthesia was done and wooden foreign body was removed near limbus.

CASE-10

A 2-years boy presented with trauma to left eye with wooden stick accidentally injured while elder sibling was playing with wooden stick. Cornea was badly damaged. Primary repair was done.

DISCUSSION

Ocular trauma is major cause of visual loss in young children. Annually, over 2.5 million American suffer an eye injury.¹ Ocular trauma is the commonest cause of unilateral blindness today. Injuries cannot be prevented but safety measures and planning can reduce the incidence of damaging trauma.

Social media helps in sharing of ideas, thoughts and information but many times media can be the reason for misleading information or can lead to serious health hazards.³ The fact that violence in the media contributes to development of aggressive behaviour has been supported by relevant research^{4, 5}, however there is always a debate as to what extent media violence affect children and young people.⁶⁻⁸

Some individuals are more prone than others to violence of media, with some research highlighting the role of social and environmental factors to explain the individual differences.

WHO has emphasized on adopting a public health approach to prevention of violence and reduction of mortality and morbidity in societies. Although, WHO world report on violence and health⁹, has not specifically addressed violence in media but it has discussed effect of media messages on health promotion.

Prior to Covid-19, most Pakistani children (4–15 Years) spent around 1–4 hours, with around 52% watching dramas.¹⁰ Although no specific research has come to the author's notice about increase in the viewing time amongst children during Covid-19 restrictions, it is anecdotally observed that time in front of screens (TV and gadgets) has increased.

Binge watching is another reason contributing to many psychological changes. It has been observed that watching TV shows in one go may excite brain, releases dopamine which can lead to sleep problems, anxiety and depression. Children are affected the most because of such TV programs. In past several cases were reported as a result of such programs e.g. 6 million dollar man, superman etc.

TV serial Ertugral-Ghazi which has been telecast on national TV has influenced multiple age groups in Pakistan. Parents report watching the drama with kids to get them a feel of real life Muslim heroes.¹¹ Media reports point towards millions plus viewing.

However, we have observed a number of trauma cases because of bows and arrows increasing significantly in past few months. When probed, all accidents were related to playacting by the children of the characters of the Ertugral drama and using bows, arrows or wooden swords. Similar findings were observed in India. Case series were reported in Hyderabad on 7th May 2020, in which 12 children from Hyderabad and surrounding areas have lost vision in one eye due to bow and arrow after Mahabhatra and Ramayan serial was run on Television.¹² Even they reported the similar injuries when Ramayan was telecasted about two decades back.

Print, electronic & social media have both positive and negative impacts on general public. Awareness amongst parents, in particular, and children is necessary to ensure that virtual reality is differentiated from the real life. While positive message or influence of any drama might be accentuated by parents, they must also ensure that children understand the need to be careful in their playacting. Similarly, health and safety aspects of any

playacting by the children under the influence of any TV or digital reality need to be addressed by the content generators and promoters.

CONCLUSION

The current burden of several ocular trauma related to effects of TV dramas/movies has increased. Ocular trauma remains an important cause of avoidable and predominantly monocular visual impairment and blindness. As over half of these blinding injuries occur at home, health education and safety strategies should be planned and executed to prevent such injuries.

REFERENCES

1. Negral AD, Thylefors B. The global impact of eye injuries. *Ophthalmic Epidemiol* 1998;5(3):143–69.
2. Malik IQ, Ali Z, Rehman A, Moin M, Hussain M. Epidemiology of penetrating ocular trauma. *Pak J Ophthalmol* 2012;28(1):14–6.
3. Kabra N, Gupta S. Role of social media as a catalyzer for ocular injury: A case study of calcium carbide gun use in India. *Delhi J Ophthalmol Soc* 2021;31(2):62–4.
4. Wood W, Wong FY, Chachere JG. Effects of media violence on viewers aggression in unconstrained social interaction. *Psychol Bull* 1991;109(3):371–83.
5. Paik H, Comstok G. The effects of television violence on antisocial behavior. A Meta-analysis 1. *Commun Res* 1994;21(4):516–46.
6. Barker M, Petlet J. The media/violence debate. London, Routledge; 2002.
7. Commission on children and violence convened by Gulbenkian Foundation. Children and violence. London; 1995.
8. Singer DG, Singer JL. Handbook of children and media. Sage publications, Inc; 2001.
9. Krug EG, Dahlberg LL, Mercy JA. World report on violence and health. Geneva, World Health Organization; 2002.
10. Zulfiqar A, Saleem N, Lateef F. Children Television Viewing Patterns and Parental Media Literacy in Pakistan. *Glob Reg Rev* 2019;4(3):403–11.
11. AFP. A summary of Ertugrul's impact on Pakistan [Internet]. Images. 2020 [cited 2021 July 27]. Available from: <https://images.dawn.com/news/1185319>
12. Nagarathna A. Re-run of Ramayan and mahabharat, Times of India; May 7th 2020.

Submitted: July 13, 2021

Revised: October 17, 2021

Accepted: October 22, 2021

Address for Correspondence:

Faiza Akram, Department of Radiology, Ayub Teaching Hospital Abbottabad-Pakistan

Email: drfaizafayyaz@gmail.com