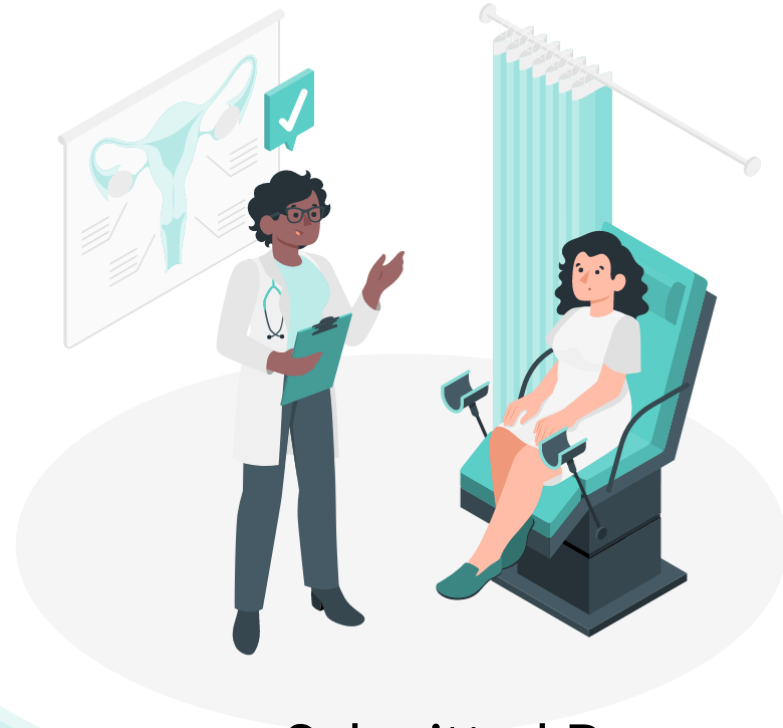


An Examination of Emergency Room Medico-Legal Cases at Ramkrishna care Hospital, Raipur

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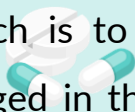




INTRODUCTION

Medico-legal cases (MLCs) are those cases that contain medical and legal features in their occurrence for which the healthcare workers practice their jobs with legal consideration. These cases often involve emergency departments given the nature of emergency situations, which basically involves accidents, assault or any other incidents that may result in a legal process. Such cases require proper recording, strict legal procedures, and collaboration with the law enforcement departments.

The Ramkrishna Care Hospital in Raipur has been considered as a leading healthcare organization and it addresses a huge number of MLCs in its ER. This is the reason why these cases are considered complex and highly sensitive that identifying their handling process helps in finding areas for development. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to investigate the MLCs status in this hospital and to understand how these cases are managed in the present scenario with regard to practices, enablers, barriers, and outcomes.





Objective

- To survey the incidence of medico legal cases encountered at the emergency room.
- To read up on the factors which contribute towards the medico legal cases in the emergency room setting.
- To compare the outcomes of medico legal cases based on different patient demographics.
- To assess the impact of such medico legal cases on the healthcare provider and institution.
- To propose suggestions to enhance the management of medico legal cases in emergency department



Research Methodology

STUDY DESIGN: The study utilize a mixed-methods approach, both quantitative and qualitative data. Quantitative data will be gathered through the analysis of ER records and case outcomes, while qualitative data will be obtained from interviews and surveys with ER staff.

SETTING: The study has been conducted in the emergency room of hospital.

STUDY TOOLS: The study will utilize structured interview schedules for healthcare providers and legal professionals. Questionnaires for patients involved in medico legal cases. Diagnostic tests if required to assess the medical aspects of the cases.

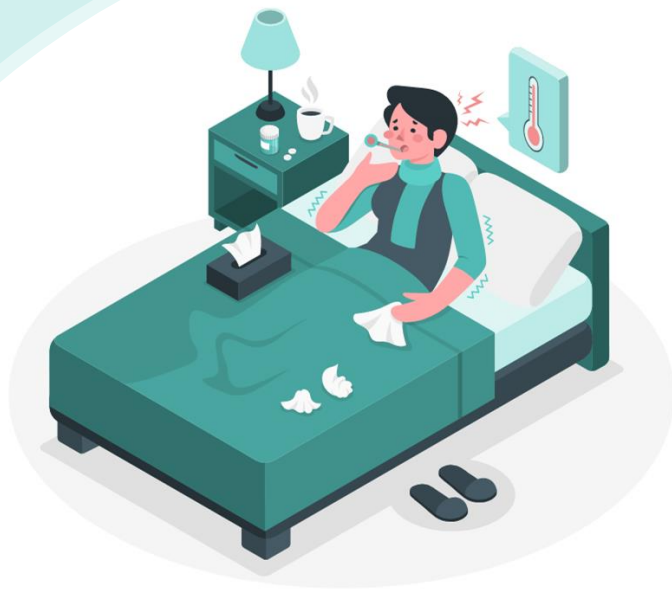
DURATION OF STUDY: The study was conducted over a period of 3 months 1st April 2024 to 30th June 2024.

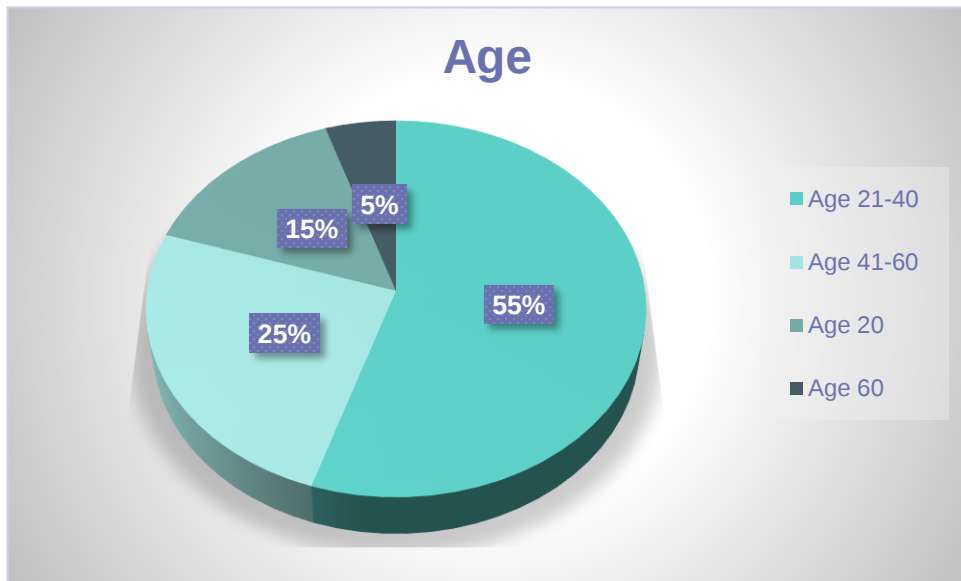
SAMPLE SIZE: The study will include all patients who presented to the ER and were involve in medico legal cases during the study.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE: A purposive sampling technique is used to select relevant cases that meet the criteria for inclusion in the study. Sample size calculation will be based on the estimated frequency of medico legal cases.

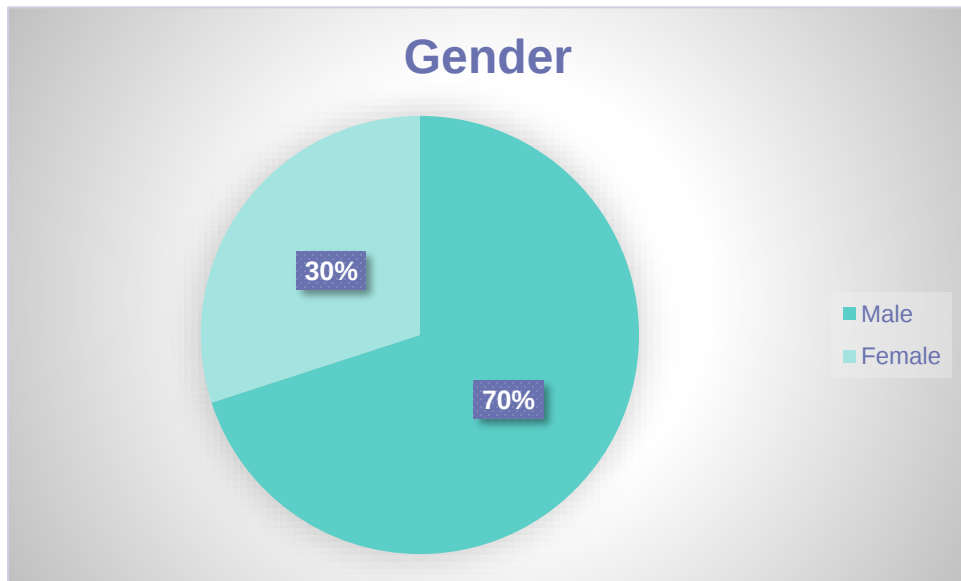


Results

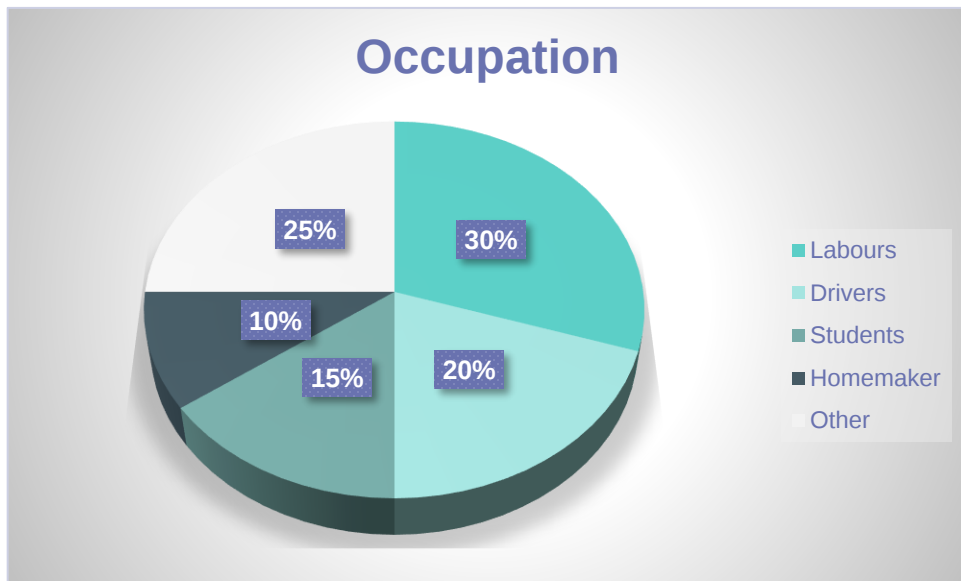




- Age: During the study period, out of registered MLC cases, 55% were between 21 and 40 years old, 25% between 41 and 60 years old, 15% below 20 years old, and 5% above 60 years old.



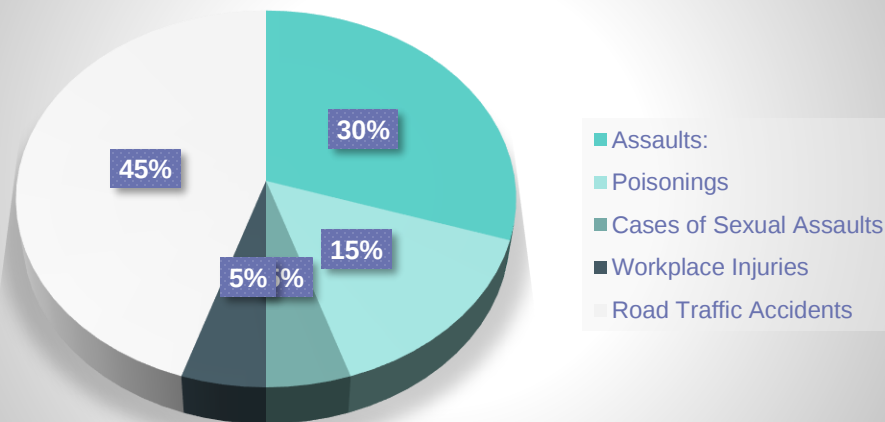
Gender: Males accounted for 70% of the MLCs, while females constituted 30%.



Occupation: The commonest occupations among the patients were labourers [30%], followed by drivers [20%], students [15%], homemakers [10%]. Other occupations constituted 25%.



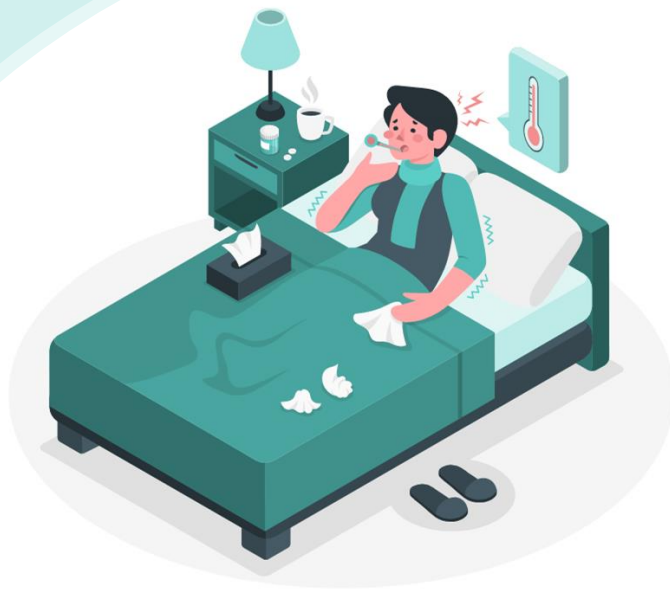
Types of MLC



- Road Traffic Accidents [RTAs]: 45% of the cases
- Assaults: 30% of cases
- Poisonings: 15% of cases
- Cases of Sexual Assaults: 5%
- Workplace Injuries: 5% of the cases



Discussion

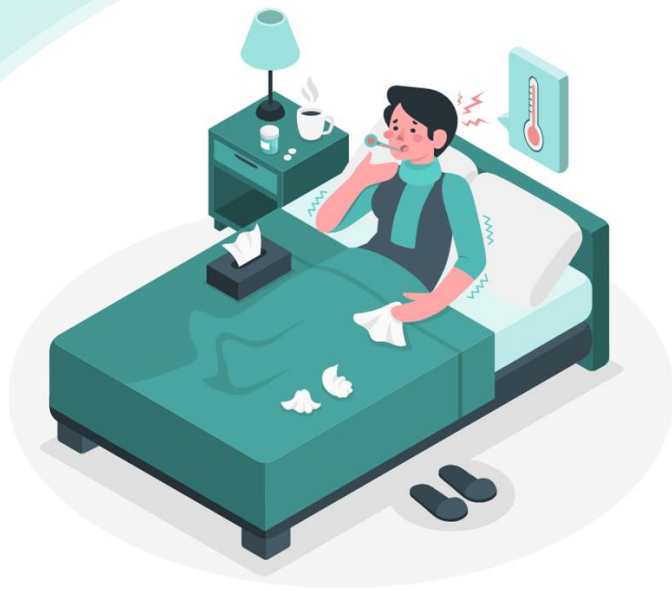


Nature and Frequency of Medico-Legal Cases

- Out of the large caseload, road traffic accident (RTA)-related cases were the maximum, followed by assaults and poisonings. The overall pattern of cases in the medico-legal database was, in general, representative of the national picture. As far as RTAs are concerned, the proportion of cases involving two-wheelers is still high; hence, more focused interventions are required in road safety at the local level in Raipur.
- The demographic analysis showed that the most common victims were young men between the ages of 21 and 40 years. This age group is particularly susceptible to RTAs and assaults, which indicates the need for appropriate and timely preventive and interventive measures.



CONCLUSI ON



Prevalence and types of MLCs: RATs were mainly the most common MLC type, closely followed by assaults, poisonings, sexual assaults, and workplace injuries. This young main population in the age group from 21-40 years was predominantly affected.

Documentation quality: variations observed in the quality of documentation with 70% having complete documents , while deficiencies were noticed in 30%

Evidence preservation: proper handling of evidence invariably noticed regarding only 60% , while serious lapses were observed in the remaining 40%.

Issues confronted by health professionals; principal issues were training and sensitization. Legal and ethical dilemmas, and problems of coordination with the police.



THANKS