

**FINANCIAL BURDEN OF HEAD INJURY PATIENTS DUE TO ROAD TRAFFIC CRASHES
ADMITTED TO NEUROSURGICAL UNIT OF YANGON GENERAL HOSPITAL**

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ABSTRACT

Along with the high incidence of road traffic injuries (RTI) in Myanmar, the victims and their families are suffered from financial distress in addition to the effect of injuries. Limited information is available on the out-of-pocket expenditure on RTI in Myanmar although it is crucial in establishment of financial protection mechanisms. Therefore this study was conducted with the aim of assessing financial burden of patients on head injury due to road traffic injury admitted in tertiary level hospital.

It was a cross sectional analytic study and assessed 106 head injury patients during September to October 2016. The rate of accident was more common in working age groups, male, low wages workers and those who used motorized two wheeled vehicles. The most frequent type of diagnosis was minor head injury without other injuries which was occupying 53.8 % of the study population. The median out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) on head injury was 98,750 kyats in which patients spent 5,000 kyats for medical, 50,000 kyats for non-medical and 30,000 kyats for indirect expenditures. Both medical and non-medical out of pocket expenditure on head injury were highest in the lowest income group, people who used motorized vehicles and who underwent operation in my study. Indirect expenditure was highest among the highest income group, trishaw users and operated patients. The study revealed that catastrophic health expenditure (CHE) due to head injury was found among 24.5% of the study population. Association between CHE and independent factors were analyzed by bivariate analysis and logistic regression methods. The chance of experiencing CHE due to head injury was higher among non-motorized road users injury (OR=3.2, 95% CI 1.1-9.8), low wages workers (OR=5.1, 95% CI 0.9-26.5) and patients who underwent operative treatment (OR=11.9, 95% CI 2.7-52.1).

The present study concludes that the health expenditure of head injury patients due to road traffic crashes can cause catastrophic effect to their households. In order to educe financial burden due to head injury caused by RTI, establishment financial protection mechanisms is important. At the same time, preventive measures for RTI should be enhanced targeting the working age groups and those who used motorized vehicles.