

LAWNMOWER INJURIES: AVOIDABLE MORBIDITY/MORTALITY?

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Background: Lawnmower injuries are common around the world. We analyze our institution's experience, discuss the societal impact, and review management and prevention strategies.

Methods: A fifteen-year retrospective review of a University Level I trauma center registry was performed. Injuries of the most recent 7 years were more thoroughly categorized. The literature was reviewed to assess lawnmower injuries and their management, and to generate a comprehensive list of avoidance strategies.

Results: 134 lawn mower injuries were identified in the registry (Figure 1). The 64 injuries identified over the past 7 years were categorized by type and location of injury, style of mower (riding versus push), and patient age. The most common mechanism was contact with the blade (72%). Injuries to the hands and feet represented three quarters of all injuries seen (figures 2, 3). Children were involved in 28% and their injuries were often more severe.

Figure 1

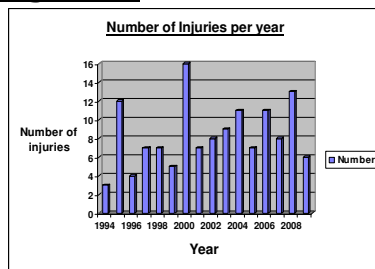


Figure 2

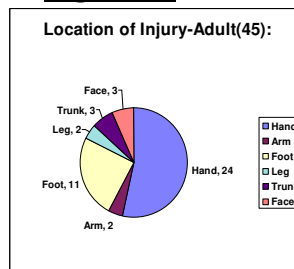
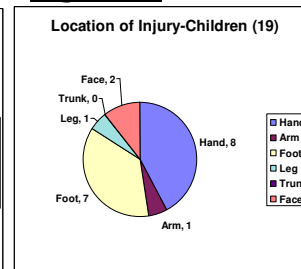


Figure 3



Conclusion: The dangers of lawnmowers are well recognized. Despite being preventable, injuries are common. Strict principles should guide management of these injuries and avoidance strategies should be promoted to improve prevention.