

Causes of ear trauma in Kenyan patients

Abstract:

Ear trauma is one of the most important epidemiological factors in causation of deafness. The causation of otologic trauma in eighty three patients is analysed. The triad of pain, hearing loss and tinnitus comprised the most frequent presenting complaints. Physical assault was the most common causation in 49.4% of the cases, road traffic accidents in 19.3% and self-inflicted injury in 15.6%. Law enforcement agencies constituted the most prominent factor in assault cases. Iatrogenic trauma was confined to 13.3% who were all below ten years of age. Road traffic accidents and violence from law enforcers were significant contributors to severe otologic damage as defined by dead ears and cerebrospinal otorrhoea.