

EPIDEMIOLOGY OF BURN INJURIES IN LITHUANIA IN 1992-2006 YEAR PERIOD

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Aim: This study was done to provide data about burn injuries epidemiology in Lithuania, influence of new healing methods and development of health care system, compare results to similar studies in other countries.

Methods: For 1992-2006 year period, data was collected from Lithuanian Department of Statistics, Department of Fire and Rescue, Lithuanian Health Information Center, State Patient Fund, Health care institutions, burn care facilities. Total number of patients suffering burns, changes of number of in-patients, burn related mortality, rates and data of hospitalization, length of stay, distribution among age groups and sex were included in this study.

Results: In 15 year period average of 9002 people per year (2.5/1000 population) sustained burn injuries. 75.3% of burned patients were adults, 24.7% children. 21.2% of burned patients were hospitalized; number of hospitalized patients per 100000 people was 52.5. Among all the patients admitted to hospitals, 67% were male and 33% female with male/female ratio of 2:1. The length of hospitalization was 13.1 days. Deaths of in-patients accounted for 64 deaths per year, with age being an important factor in mortality rates with lowest of 0.3% in age group of 0-14 rising to 14.2% in age group 65 and above, with average of 3.5% of all in-patients (5% excluding age group 0-14). Men had mortality rate of 5%, women slightly higher of 5.2%.

Conclusions: Many statistical figures are similar to studies done in other countries, changes in burn treatment, prevention and health care system are making positive effects, but some numbers are very high and worrying and new approach to burn treatment and prevention should be considered.