

Alcohol and Drug related admissions into Trauma & Orthopaedics

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Introduction

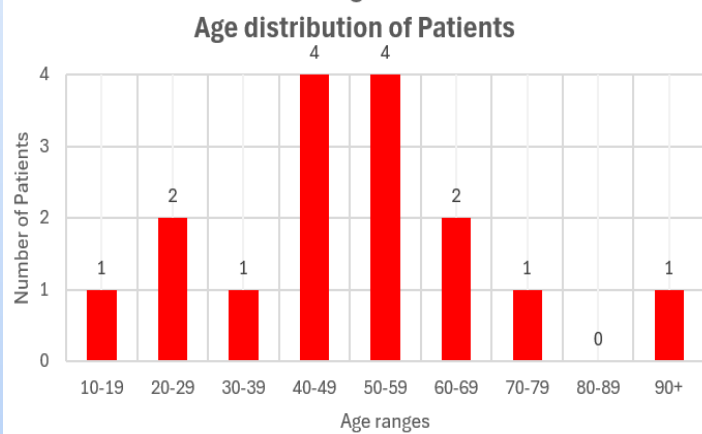
Alcohol and drug use have a major impact on patients and the NHS service. This impact ranges from the direct consequences on patients, such as the trauma itself and potentially loss of life, to the burden placed on hospital wards tasked with managing these patients. There is a notable financial strain imposed on the NHS due to the potentially avoidable nature of these issues.

Methods

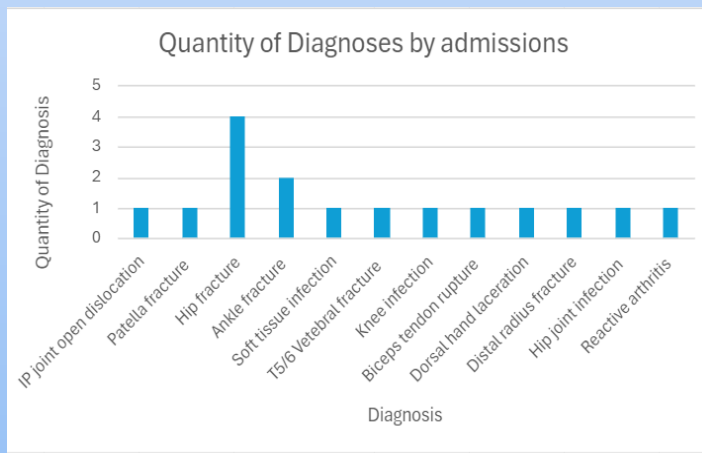
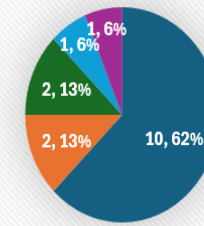
Collection and analysis of patients for the month of February 2024 to the Trauma & Orthopaedics ward at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. Clinical notes were accessed to determine if their injury was related to alcohol or drugs. Data that was collected were as follows; name, CHI number, age, sex, diagnosis, date of injury, date of admission, date of surgery, date or discharge, alcohol involvement, known alcohol history, drug involvement, known drug history, surgical procedure received, time in theatre, and time spent on ward.

Results

Out of the 313 patients on the admissions board, only 197 were admitted to the ward with 16 (8.1%) of these patients identified to have been related to alcohol or drug intoxication.



Mechanism of Injury



	Total range of costs of all the patients (£)	Average range of cost per patient (£)
Surgical	6,302 -	630 - 1,348
theatre	13,480	
Ward	55,084 – 68,902	3,692 – 4,618
Total cost	61,386 – 82,382	4,322 – 5,966

Discussion

- Alcohol and drug related admissions into Trauma & Orthopaedics are still prevalent and cause a substantial financial burden in treatment and care of these patients.
- Data aligned with 2023 STAG report for admissions due to alcohol and drugs along with data demographics of the admissions despite differences in sample size.
- Based on results the theoretical cost of admissions for a whole year in total would cost the NHS from £736,632 to £988,584

Recommendations

The next steps following this study would be nationally collecting data to see how the rest of Scotland is affected by alcohol or drug related admissions into Trauma & Orthopaedic wards.

Also, an effort to investigate into whether these patients admitted with injuries relating to alcohol or drugs, that have a known history of substance misuse, have had support with advice or received counselling for their substance misuse which in turn would help them prevent further injuries due to their known substance abuse.

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