| 15 | RISK FACTORS FOR SEVERE MOTORCYCLE INJURIES AMONG MOTORCYCLISTS |

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Background As Myanmar is moving on its pathway of socio-economic development, there is a shift in epidemiological transition towards non-communicable diseases, out of which injury is one of the major concern. According to the statistics 2009, transport and occupational injuries were the most reported causes of morbidity in Myanmar. In Myanmar, motorcycle possessed the largest proportion of registered motor vehicles, accounting for 82.65%.

Objective To study the risk factors for severe motorcycle injuries among motorcyclists in Magway township, central Myanmar.

Methods A case control study conducted among motorcyclists who had history of motorcycle accidents within 3 year period. Semi-structured questionnaires were used which include background characteristics, human factors, motorcycle factors and environmental factors at the time of accident.

Results Among background characteristics and human factors, there were significantly higher odds of severe injuries regarding age less than 25 year 1.07–9.37) ears (OR=2.54, 95% CI 1.35 to 4.80), education level up to high school (OR=3.06, 95% CI 1.52 to 6.14), <1 year driving experience (OR=3.16, 95% CI 1.07 to 9.37) and under the influence of alcohol (OR=3.67, 95% CI 1.66 to 8.13). Regarding environmental factors, significant associations were found with night time, highway, tar road, dry and good road and collision with objects. After logistic regression analysis for highly significant variables, under the influence of alcohol and highway had significant odd ratios.

Contribution to the Field Control of alcohol consumption during driving, law enforcement regarding speed limits, compulsory wearing of helmet should be encouraged.