

0723 A STUDY OF WARFARE INJURIES DRAINING TO TEACHING HOSPITAL, ANURADHAPURA, SRI LANKA

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Background Armed conflict has been a major cause of ill health and death throughout history and not received the same attention from public health practitioners and researchers as other causes of illness. But has been projected to be the 8th most important cause of death by 2020. The Sri Lankan Civil War was an on-and-off insurgency against the government by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a separatist militant organisation which fought to create an independent Tamil state. After a 30 month long military campaign, the Sri Lankan military defeated the Tamil Tigers in May 2009.

Objectives To determine the incidence of warfare injuries draining to Teaching Hospital, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka and interventions for those injuries.

Methods This is a retrospective analytical study and obtained data from May 2007 to May 2009. All the patients admitted to surgical units with warfare injuries were collected from bed head tickets.

Results Total admissions to the surgical unit of TH/A is 22 707 and out of which 85.41% were casualties including 5574 Army Casualties and 13 821 civil Casualties. Eighteen percent of army casualties were managed by Laparotomies, 0.25% by Thoracotomies and 66.54% by other surgical procedures. Fifteen percent of total army casualties were end up with amputations

Conclusions Higher percentage of total hospital admissions on surgical units was due to casualties out of which considerable percentage due to warfare injuries. At the battle, thoracic region of a soldier is covered with an armour, but may have not been adequate abdominal cover. So the Injuries to the abdominal organs was much higher than thoracic organs. To prevent those abdominal injuries, bullet proof abdominal armours can be introduced. Number of amputations shows the incidence of disable individuals and rehabilitation programs should launch for them.