ANALYSIS OF THE CASES OF TRAUMA AND SUICIDE
ATTEMPTS SERVICED BY UNIVERSITY GENERAL
HOSPITAL ‘TSARITSA YOANNA—ISUL’, SOFIA OVER
1 YEAR PERIOD

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Aim To estimate the rate of hospital admissions for trauma and
burns due to external causes (ICD-10) for a 1 year period in com-
parison with the overall number of admissions in a university hos-
pital providing emergency services for a city with a population of
1.5 million. A secondary analysis involved identifying the types
of external causes and assessing their preventability and cost.

Methods Analysis of case notes from five wards (Ophtalmology;
Orthopedics and Trauma; Ear, Nose and Throat; Intensive Care;
Neurosurgery) for the period of 1 January 2011–1 January 2012.
The trauma cases and burns due to external causes as well as
suicide attempts were summarised. The ratio between trauma due
to extraneous causes and overall number admissions was calcu-
lated, the percentage of cases leading to long-term disability, their
financial cost and the estimated cost of their prevention.

Results We found that preventable traumas due to external causes
comprise a significant part of all admissions, with ophtalmology,
hand trauma and suicide attempts in untreated psychiatric disor-
ders contributing considerably. Our secondary analysis revealed a
high percentage of long-term disability as a direct result of these
preventable traumas. These data highlight the need to increase pre-
vention efforts, as well as the need to register hospitalised patients
under section ‘External causes’ of ICD-10 when appropriate.