OBJECTIVES

- To analyze the epidemiological factors involved in fatal vehicular accidents as observed in hospital setting
- To analyze the pattern of cranio-intracranial injuries in fatal vehicular accidents
- To provide a base line data to policy makers to help in planning the preventive and curative measures pertaining to human habitations highways, industries and also to equip the health care institution accordingly.

RESULTS

Fatal vehicular accidents constituted (50.3%) major cause of unnatural deaths Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh (India) and its incidence increased from 50.6% to 54.7% between 1987–1992 then decreased to 45.3% in next decade and then again increased to 50.2% in 2002–2012 (p<0.01). In 18% victims blood alcohol level was above the permissible limit Productive age group that is, 16–45 years (70%) with male preponderance (88.96%) was observed throughout the study period.

Two wheelers occupants (motorcycles, scooters) were the major victims of fatal vehicular accidents (33.3%) followed by pedestrians (23%) bicyclist (22%) and four wheelers occupants (21.7%). Among the two wheelers victims (40.54%) were without helmets and (22.43%) were with ill-fitted helmets.

58% victims died within 24 h of accidents and head injury was the most common cause of death (79.64%). Temporal bone was most commonly involved (69.09%) and occipital bone the least (9.98%). Subdural haematoma (26.95%) was common followed by extradural haematoma (23.7%) intracranial haemorrhage (5.43%).

In 43.9% subjects various combination of intra-cranial haemorrhage was seen. Injury to brain tissues was seen in 78.27% of instances and most commonly affected were the temporal lobes (56.4%) other associated injuries were fracture of long bones (33.47%) ribs (21.67%), vertebrae (5.47%), and sternum (3.45%). In 23.74% instances thoracoabdominal injuries were also present.