

Characteristics of patients admitted to the Trauma Center for Children at the University Clinical Center, Medical University of Warsaw in its first year of operation

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Introduction: Children's Trauma Centers (CTC) in Poland have been operating since 2017. To be admitted to a trauma center, a patient must meet specific anatomical and physiological criteria or be involved in an accident with specific circumstances. Based on an analysis of patients admitted to CTC operating as part of the pediatric hospital at Medical University of Warsaw (MUW) in 2019, we decided to conduct a preliminary evaluation of the validity of the above-mentioned criteria.

Materials and methods: From the internal documentation system, we collected data on patients admitted in 2019 to the Warsaw CTC. We divided the group into categories in terms of the mechanisms of injury: fall from a height, traffic accident, hitting and others, and we analyzed in details the course of their hospitalization.

Results: In 2019, 32 patients were admitted to the center and only 8 of them met the admission criteria. The longest hospitalization time (11 days) was recorded in patients after traffic accidents and car hittings. In this group also 8/13 patients required surgical intervention, however only 2 out of 13 patients met the admission criteria. The shortest hospitalization time (8.9 days) and no need for surgical interventions were recorded in the group of falls from a height, where by definition, all patients met the admission criteria.

Conclusions: In conclusion, it seems to us that many patients in serious condition are not admitted to the CTC, and on the other hand, many admitted patients probably do not require transportation to such a highly specialized center. Our observations show that national data on patients admitted to CTC should be collected and analyzed in order to improve care for pediatric trauma patients in Poland.