

Neurotrauma in Prehospital Care in Region Skåne in 2024

Poul C Kongstad

Background: Neurotrauma represents a significant and recurrent diagnosis within prehospital care. In the Region of Skåne in Southern Sweden, we wanted to provide an updated account of the incidence of neurotrauma-related ambulance missions during 2024. The regional ambulance service attends to 177.869 alerts annually according to the dispatcher SOS Alarm® for a population of 1,4 million inhabitants.

Methods: Data were extracted from the Paratus®/Ispass database and analyzed using Qlikview®. Broad search strategies were applied to capture the panorama of neurotrauma cases. According to the RETTS® triage system, head, facial, and skull trauma were grouped for analysis.

Results: In total, 8977 cases were identified, of which 1864 were classified as “VIPP” which means they were not transported to hospital. The majority of cases occurred in patients aged 70–90 years. Frequently administered medications included paracetamol, ondansetron, intravenous fluids, oxygen, methoxyflurane, ketamine and midazolam. Tranexamic acid and NSAIDs were administered only 17 and 2 times, respectively.

Conclusion: Approximately 5% of all ambulance patients in Skåne present with head, face or neck trauma, a proportion twice as high as that of hip fractures or stroke. The vast majority of cases represent minor trauma, which mainly may be further differentiated into concussions and minor injuries among older patients receiving anticoagulant therapy. A heterogeneous subgroup involving facial and neck trauma merits additional investigation. These findings suggest that neurotrauma is more prevalent than perhaps previously estimated and should be regarded as a distinct domain within prehospital medicine. Greater awareness, refined classification, and strengthened preventive strategies are warranted to ensure adequate recognition and improved outcomes for this vulnerable patient group.