

Welding related occupational eye injuries: a narrative analysis

Lombardi DA, Pannala R, Sorock GS, Wellman H, Courtney TK, Verma S, Smith GS.

OBJECTIVE: To determine the activities and circumstances proximal to a welding related occupational eye injury, a hybrid narrative coding approach derived from two well developed classification systems was developed to categorize and describe the activity, initiating process, mechanism of injury, object and/or substance, and the use of protective eyewear from the narrative text data reported for each injury.

METHODS: Routinely collected workers' compensation claims over a one year period (2000) were analyzed from a large US insurance provider. An index term search algorithm of occupation, incident, and injury description fields identified 2209 potential welding related eye injury claims. After detailed review of these claims, 1353 welders and 822 non-welders were analyzed. **RESULTS:** During 2000, eye(s) as the primary injured body part accounted for 5% (n = 26 413) of all compensation claims. Eye injuries accounted for 25% of all claims for welders. Subjects were mainly male (97.1%) and from manufacturing (70.4%), service (11.8%), or construction (8.4%) related industries. Most injuries were foreign body (71.7%) or burn (22.2%) and 17.6% were bilateral. Common activities include welding (31.9%) and/or grinding (22.5%). Being struck by an airborne object occurred in 56.3% of cases. Non-welders showed similar patterns except that burns (43.8%) were more frequent and more often initiated by another worker (13.9%).

CONCLUSIONS: Narrative injury text provides valuable data to supplement traditional epidemiologic analyses. Workers performing welding tasks or working nearby welders should be trained to recognize potential hazards and the effective use of proper safety equipment to prevent ocular injury.

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Inj Prev. 2005 Jun;11(3):174-9.

Serious eye and adnexal injuries from fireworks in Northern Ireland before and after lifting of the firework ban – an ophthalmology unit's experience

Chan WC, Knox FA, McGinnity FG, Sharkey JA.

BACKGROUND/AIMS: To report serious fireworks-related eye and adnexal injuries presenting to the Department of Ophthalmology in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. To assess the effect of lifting of the legislative ban on fireworks in Northern Ireland in 1996. **METHOD:** Twelve year retrospective review from 1990 to 2001 inclusive of all ocular and adnexal injuries from fireworks requiring hospitalisation to the ophthalmology department. **RESULTS:** Twenty three patients with 23 injured eyes were reported. Six were female. The mean age was 18 years (+/- 13 SD). Six patients presented between the years 1990 and 1995. The remaining 17 patients presented between 1996 and 2001. Nearly half of the patients required ophthalmic surgical procedures. Thirty-six percent of patients had a final visual acuity of 6/60 or less. Superficial trauma not requiring hospitalisation was not included. **CONCLUSION:** Removal of the legislative ban on fireworks in 1996 has had a significant effect on the incidence of eye injuries. These injuries are potentially preventable with stricter control on the availability of fireworks and a greater awareness of the ocular risks they pose.

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Int Ophthalmol. 2004 May;25(3):167-9.

Courses and conferences

Bridging Communities and Eye Care Providers to Achieve VISION 2020 in Africa

Date: December 5-10, 2005

Venue: Moshi, Tanzania.

Course objectives: To address the challenge of developing and implementing strategies for bridging communities and hospitals. This course will provide eye care programme managers with the skills necessary to develop, implement, and monitor strategies for increasing utilisation of services (primarily cataract, refractive error and trichiasis but also including childhood cataract and other conditions) by the population in need.

Target audience: Eye care programme managers (MoH, NGDO, service groups), trainers, and key decision makers of national prevention of blindness programmes.

Further details: For information and admission procedures please visit the KCCO website (www.kcco.net) or contact: Dr Paul Courtright (pcourtright@kcco.net) KCCO, PO Box 2254, Moshi, Tanzania.

International Ophthalmic Nurses Association, Golden Jubilee Conference – 50 years of IONA

A Celebration of Ophthalmic Nursing.

Date: April 7 & 8, 2006

Venue: London, UK.

Call for papers: Please submit an abstract of 500 words.

Application forms for IONA membership and for the conference are available from: Carol Bullock, 3 Montgomery Close, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 6NF. UK. to whom abstracts should also be sent.

Email: john.bullock@unisonfree.net

World Ophthalmology Congress

(Previously called 'International Congress of Ophthalmology ICO').

Date: February 19-24, 2006

Venue: Sao Paulo, Brazil.

The World Ophthalmology Congress will be held in conjunction with the XXVI Pan-American Congress of Ophthalmology and the XVII Brazilian Congress on Blindness Prevention. Information on the congress and on the committees, scientific programme and coordinators of different areas are available at the congress website www.ophthalmology2006.com.br or email: info@ophthalmology2006.com.br

19th International Society for Geographical & Epidemiological Ophthalmology Congress

The 19th ISGEO congress will be held in Sao Paulo, Brazil on 18-19 February 2006, prior to the World Ophthalmology Congress. Abstract submission and registration forms can be obtained by emailing Dr. Paul Courtright (pcourtright@kcco.net) or by accessing the ISGEO website at www.kcco.net/isgeo

British Council for Prevention of Blindness (BCPB) Fellowship Programme

Closing date for receipt of applications: 25th November 2005.

Aims of the Fellowships: To fund research and training in prevention of blindness for high calibre clinicians and scientists from the UK and overseas. Projects must further the goals of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight, for the elimination of avoidable blindness.

In 2006, BCPB seeks to fund one Fellow from the UK and one Fellow from a low-income country to undertake projects that focus on Africa. The Fellowships will be worth up to £60,000 per year for two or three years. Applications must be submitted jointly by the Fellowship candidate and the supervisor at the host institution in the UK.

Further details: For full information and an application form, contact Jackie Webber at BCPB, 29b Montague Street, London WC1 5BW or by email: info@bcpb.org

Website: www.bcpb.org Registered charity number 270941.

Scholarships for training in small incision cataract surgery: the *Seeing is Believing* Programme

In 2003, issue number 48, there was a major feature on manual small incision cataract surgery (SICS). This is still available from www.jceh.co.uk/download/ceh_16_48_049.pdf or, for those without Adobe Acrobat Reader, from www.jceh.co.uk/journal/48.asp

The *Seeing is Believing** SICS training programme is helping contribute to one million sight restorations. The advantages of the SICS technique are clear:

From the patient's perspective:

- faster recovery of good vision
- faster return to normal activities
- good vision in a matter of days instead of weeks or even months
- return home within hours of the procedure
- reduced cost of consumables
- reduced number of outpatient visits needed.

From the providers perspective:

- reduced chances of surgically induced astigmatism or ruptured sutures
- quick; which means more operations can be undertaken per list
- lower cost for consumables (no suture required)
- fewer outpatient follow up visits, as less astigmatism, and no sutures to remove
- better wound stability.

Seeing is Believing is a four year programme supported by Standard Chartered Bank, which aims to restore sight to one million people in ten countries by World Sight Day, 2007. One component of the programme entails offering scholarships to ophthalmologists in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Kenya in SICS. The SICS scholarship scheme offers partial funding up to a maximum of \$500. Training has already started in India and Pakistan. Bangladesh and Kenya are developing availability. Application for this training is open to public/NGO sector surgeons (as opposed to private) with good microsurgical skills and who already do approximately 1,000 ECCE/IOL surgeries per year. Some candidates may be accepted at lower rates of output. In India the focus is on NGO/charity sector surgeons as other grants from the MoH may be available for government surgeons. The *Seeing is Believing* scholarship has an application process that identifies those surgeons who will best contribute to the objectives of the *Seeing is Believing* programme.

If your work specifically makes cataract surgery available for needy people, you have a history of high output and high quality ECCE/IOL surgery, and you would like to undertake this training, please send for further details. You should email Sight Savers International (SSI) for an application form and more details, depending on your country of residence, as follows:

India: Ranjish Kattady at rkattady@sightsavers.org

Pakistan: Niazullah Khan at nkhan@sightsavers.org.pk

Bangladesh: Dr Enamul Kabir at ekabir@netezen.net

Kenya: Nancy Thuo at nthuo@sightsavers.org.ke

No other subsidiary correspondence will be entered into. The final choice of candidates rests with SSI Head Office in the UK.

* *Seeing is Believing* is a corporate social responsibility programme of Standard Chartered Bank who are working in collaboration with Sight Savers International (SSI). It is a ten-country international initiative, with SSI as lead agency, delivered through partners of SSI, Christoffel Blindenmission (CBM), The Fred Hollows Foundation, Helen Keller International and ORBIS. It features service delivery, infrastructure development, equipment supply, medicines & consumables, and training. Training for SICS is also being developed in Sri Lanka and Thailand, but are outside the scholarship scheme. The primary objective of *Seeing is Believing* is a joint effort to contribute towards one million sight restorations by World Sight Day in October 2007. Peter Renew. Sight Savers International. UK. prenew@sightsavers.org

New resources from ICEH

Four posters

Stevens S. Control of Infection in Ophthalmic Practice
Stevens S & Cox I. Care of Ophthalmic Surgical Instruments
Stevens S & Cox I. Sterilization and Disinfection
Stevens S. Assisting the Blind and Visually Impaired

Available from ICEH (address on page 102)

Price: £5 per single poster, £12 for a set of any three posters, £15 for a set of any four posters. All above prices include post and packing.

Email: Sue.Stevens@Lshtm.ac.uk

Slide set with booklet – full colour

Stevens S. Practical Ophthalmic Procedures – Volume 4

Available from ICEH (address on page 102) Price: £15 to developing countries (£20 elsewhere) plus £5 post and packing.

Email: Sue.Stevens@Lshtm.ac.uk

A new comprehensive ophthalmic nursing textbook

Marsden J, editor. Ophthalmic Care

Available from ICEH (address on page 102) Discount price: £26 plus post and packing.

Email: Sue.Stevens@Lshtm.ac.uk

Standard List for a VISION 2020 Eye Care Service Unit Medicines, equipment, instruments, optical supplies and educational resources 2006/07

The updated VISION 2020 Standard List 2006/7 will be available on-line from World Sight Day, 13 October 2005, at www.v2020.org and www.iceh.org.uk. In December, printed copies of the Standard List will be available free of charge from the International Centre for Eye Health. Please contact Sue Stevens at the ICEH address on page 102 or email Sue.Stevens@Lshtm.ac.uk to receive a paper copy of the Standard List.

Other new resources



Ophthalmic instruments and equipment – their care and maintenance

Aravind Eye Hospital, 2005 – DVD or VHS video format

Ophthalmic staff use a range of delicate, complex, and expensive equipment which needs to be kept in good order. Many of them work in hospitals far from easy access to dedicated maintenance and repair facilities. The Instruments Maintenance Department of Aravind Eye Hospital in India, with funding from Sight

Savers International, has produced a CD and video which combines text, graphics, and video to create a comprehensive visual guidebook to the maintenance and repair of direct ophthalmoscope, streak retinoscope, indirect ophthalmoscope, slit lamp, operating microscope, keratometer, phaco machine, A Scan, Schiottz tonometer, optics cleaning, blood pressure apparatus and surgical instruments. This resource will be available in various formats, including DVD and VHS video, from October 2005 and will cost Indian Rs500 or UK £7.

Those resident in India wishing to purchase the CD should apply to: Manager (Stores), Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai 625020, Tel: +91 (0) 452 535 6100 Ext 192, Fax: +91 (0) 452 253 0984,

Email: aravind@aravind.org

Those residing outside India should contact: ICEH (address on page 102) Email: Sue.Stevens@Lshtm.ac.uk

Solomon AW et al. Trachoma control: a guide for programme managers

(WHO/PBD/GET/04.6) Available from the World Health Organization (WHO) Email: pbd@who.int



Useful resources

Eye injuries

Books/Booklets

Varvinski AM & Eltringham R. Anaesthesia for ophthalmic surgery

Part 1: Regional Techniques. In: Walters F. and Wilson IH, ed. Update in Anaesthesia volumes 6-12 compendium. WFSA, 2000. A low-cost edition is available to workers in developing countries for £6. Teaching Aids at Low Cost (TALC) PO Box 49, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 5TX, UK.

Email: info@talcuk.org

Website: www.talcuk.org

Fax: 44 1727 846852.

Published online in Update in Anaesthesia: Issue 6 (1996)

Article 3. World Anaesthesia Online.

www.nda.ox.ac.uk/wfsa/html/u06/u06_012.htm

(accessed 28 July 2005).

Note: World Anaesthesia Online is an educational journal aimed at providing practical advice for those working in isolated or difficult environments.

Nicol A and Steyn E: Handbook on trauma for Southern Africa
Oxford University Press 2004.

Community Eye Health Journal issues on eye injuries

Antipersonnel mines: why ban? Vol 10 no 23 1997.

Magnitude of eye injuries worldwide. Vol 10 no 24 1997.

Website: www.jceh.co.uk

Francis V, Wiafe B. The healthy eyes activity book.

Part 3 Prevent blindness from accidents

Available in English from ICEH (address on page 102). Price: £3.00 includes post and packing. Email: Sue.Stevens@Lshtm.ac.uk

Available free online at www.iceh.org.uk/files/heab/english/heab144all.pdf

French version available from Task Force Sight and Life, BP 2116, 4002, Basel Switzerland. Email: sight.life@dsm.com

French, Tamil, Sinhalese, Chinese (Mandarin), Tibetan and Gujarati translations available from the Task Force Sight and Life website: www.sightandlife.org/booksAll/Heab.html

Videos

Diwali: Precautions for everyone

A six-minute patient information video about precaution when handling fireworks. Available from LVPEI, Central Audio-Visual Unit, LV Prasad Marg, Hyderabad – 500 034, Andhra Pradesh, India
Email: mshoba@lvpei.org

Calling all budding authors!

Article writing competition for the Community Eye Health Journal

Readers are invited to submit original articles (not previously published) on a theme relevant to implementing VISION 2020. Four winning articles will be published in the *Community Eye Health Journal*. Articles should be innovative, based on VISION 2020 priorities, and of interest and relevance to our readers. Our readers are mostly in developing countries and work in community eye care as general nurses, ophthalmic nurses/assistants, refractionists/optometrists, public health specialists and

ophthalmologists. Winning articles will be selected by the Editorial Committee.

Length: 1,500 words maximum.

Deadline: Extended to 28th February 2006.

Photographs and graphics: Photographs, diagrams and tables can be submitted to illustrate the article. If photographs of patients are included, they should be accompanied by evidence of the patient's (or guardian's) written consent to use the photograph for educational purposes.

Format: Articles can be handwritten, typed or in electronic format.

How to send articles

By post

Article Competition, The Editor, Community Eye Health Journal, ICEH, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT, UK.

By email

Put 'Article Competition' as the subject and send to: Victoria.Francis@Lshtm.ac.uk and Anita.Shah@Lshtm.ac.uk

Community Eye Health

JOURNAL

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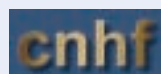
Christian Blind Mission International

sightsavers
INTERNATIONAL

Sight Savers International



Dark & Light Blind Care



Conrad N. Hilton Foundation



The Fulmer
Charitable
Trust

TIJSSSEN FOUNDATION

Tijssen Foundation

Next issue



Adrienne Burrough

The next issue of the *Community Eye Health Journal* will be on the theme **managing people**. It will also include summaries of ICEH MSc dissertations.