

ABSTRACT

Background: Traumatic head injuries, typically caused by traffic accidents during daily activities, have shifted to home accidents amid the COVID-19 pandemic due to increased remote work and reduced commuting. Understanding the characteristics and epidemiology of these injuries before and during the pandemic is crucial.

Objective: To investigate the difference of characteristics of traumatic head injury patients before and during the COVID-19 pandemic at RSUP Dr. Sardjito Yogyakarta.

Method: This descriptive cross-sectional study analyzes medical records of traumatic head injury patients at RSUP Dr. Sardjito from February 2018 to February 2022, divided into two groups: February 2018 to February 2020 (Group 1) and March 2020 to February 2022 (Group 2). Characteristics studied include age, sex, diagnosis, area of involvement, severity, and etiology.

Results: Examining 408 medical records out of a total of 3000, this study saw increased occurrences of epidural hemorrhages and cerebral edema during the pandemic. Diffuse traumatic head injuries were also higher in this period. The incidence of traumatic head injuries was higher among males but lower among females compared to pre-pandemic levels.

Conclusion: Other than diagnosis, area of involvement, and sex, there were no significant differences between the characteristics of traumatic head injuries before and during the COVID-19 pandemic at RSUP Dr. Sardjito Yogyakarta.

Keywords: characteristics of traumatic head injury, COVID-19, pandemic