

Summary

“Injuries to the facial skeleton in the elderly. Observations of the Maxillofacial Surgery Clinic of the Fryderyk Chopin University Clinical Hospital in Rzeszów”

With the increase in life expectancy and the elderly population (over 60 years of age according to WHO), the number of injuries of the facial part of the skull in this age group is increasing. The work covers the clinical material of 505 patients after trauma to the facial part of the skull, treated at the Fryderyk Chopin Maxillofacial Surgery Clinic USK in Rzeszów, in the years 2000–2019. The aim of the study is a retrospective analysis of data on the causes, diagnostics, methods and results of treatment of patients in two periods 2000–2009 and in the years 2010–2019.

An increase in the number of treated patients was observed in the years 2010–2019 by 37% compared to the years 2000–2009. The age of hospitalized patients ranged between 60 and 94 years, the median was 69. For the purposes of statistical analysis, the age of the elderly was divided into 3 groups, i.e. 60–70, 71–80 and over 80 years. The largest group were patients aged 60–70, i.e. 58%, patients aged 71–80 accounted for 28.1%, patients over 80 years old 13.9%. The majority of patients were men 70% and women 30%.

The main cause of injury to the facial part of the skull in each examined age group and in the 2 examined periods was a fall from one's own height, i.e. 35.5% of fracture causes. Fractures of the zygomatic maxillary complex 42.2% and mandible 31.1% predominated. No concomitant injuries were found in 66.3% of patients. Maxillofacial fractures were most often accompanied by CNS injuries, i.e. 16.2% and musculoskeletal injuries (11.3%). The majority of patients, i.e. 64.6%, had comorbidities, among which the most common were cardiological (46.5%) and endocrine and metabolic diseases (17.4%).

Most patients, i.e. 60%, were treated surgically, 15% by conservative-orthopedic methods, and 25% were treated with surgical and orthopedic methods. The lowest number of complications after treatment was found in the group of patients treated with conservative-orthopedic methods.