

Abstracts of Oral Presentation

A descriptive study on homicides in Galle, Sri Lanka

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Introduction: The intentional killing of a human being by another is the ultimate crime. Its indisputable physical consequences manifested in the form of a dead body also make it the most categorical and calculable. **Objective:** To find out epidemiological, socio-economic and postmortem data on homicides and compare them with the findings of previous studies.

Materials and Methods: A retrospective study was carried out at the Teaching hospital, Karapitiya during the year 2011. All the potential homicide cases referred during the study period were analyzed.

Results: Forty (34 males) homicides were studied. The majority (62.5%) was in the 21-40 age group and 85% of them were married. Most of the homicides were reported from Meethiyagoda (20%), Elpitiya (15%) and Karandeniya (15%). A sharp force was the commonest method ($n = 18$; 45%). The number of homicides by fire arm and blunt force were 13 (30%) and 9 (25%) respectively. In studies done in the year 2006 and 2008, firearm was the commonest method used. All assailant unknown (20%) cases were firearm deaths. Knife was the commonest weapon used (50%) in sharp force trauma followed by swords (44%). Chest remains the commonest site of injury in both sharp force (16) and firearm (entry wound 14, exit wound 09) deaths. In blunt force trauma, head and face remains the targeted sites (100%).

Conclusions: Majority were young married males. Sharp cutting weapons have become more popular. Swords are being used as often as the knives. There is a definite change in the method used for homicides in the war era and post-war era. Firearms are being used in cases where the assailant is unidentified.

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An assessment of the pre mass treatment prevalence of Soil Transmitted Helminths (STHs) in Bope-Poddala Medical Officer of Health (MOH) area

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Background: The Ministry of Health has issued a new circular to control STH infections (*General Circular Letter-02-172/2012*). Bope-Poddala MOH area is considered as moderate risk areas (prevalence 10% - 20%) and was requested to conduct annual de-worming programmes including children and pregnant women. There was no indication to do pre helminth surveys prior to mass treatment in the issued circular.

Objective: To emphasize the fact that pre-STH surveys are necessary before implementing new de-worming guidelines.

Methods: The highest risk group—pre-school children—was considered as the study population in this survey. All 38 registered pre-schools were visited. All the parents of students presented on the day of survey were asked to collect a sample of faeces. Personnel and STH related data were collected by direct administration of a questionnaire. Each sample was examined twice by the first and third author using direct normal saline and iodine smears. All positive cases were confirmed by the last author.

Results: Sample recovery rate was 74.8% (314/420). Mean age was 4.4(SD=0.6) years. Overall STH prevalence was 1.6% (CI=1.39; n=5). All five cases were due to *Trichuris trichiura* (whipworm). Four cases of *Enterobius vermicularis* (pinworm-not a STH) were accidentally detected. More than 60% of children have consumed at least one dose of anthelmintics within past six months. Almost all (97.5%) had disposed their children's faeces properly.

Conclusions: In 2000, Bope-Poddala had more than 8% of STH prevalence. Recent low prevalence may be due to (i) anti-filaria mass treatment which included diethylcarbamazine and albendazole conducted in the entire area annually between 2002 and 2006; (ii) often unprescribed anthelmintic treatment to pre-schoolers and the improvement of socio-economic background. Accumulation of trichuriasis is possible due to drug resistance.

Recommendations: We strongly believe that each MOH office should conduct pre-surveys before starting de-worming guidelines to prevent unnecessary expenses and emergence of new drug resistant strains.

Abstracts of Oral Presentation**Sexual violence towards females at Matara**

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Introduction: Statistics on sexual violence towards females are limited and underestimated as many cases go unrecorded.

Objective: The study was designated to find out epidemiological and socio-economic statistics of the victims of sexual violence and the medico-legal aspects of injuries due to sexual violence.

Materials and Methods: All the sexual violence cases referred to the Judicial Medical officer's office, General hospital, Matara from 1st of January 2012 to 1st of December 2012 were retrospectively analyzed.

Results: There were 260 victims referred for medico-legal examination. The age of the victims ranged from 4 years to 62 years. From the total 202 (77.5%) victims were below 16 years. Among them 177 (68%) belong to the age group of 11-16 years. 234 (90%) of the victims were from low socio-economic class and 210 (80%) of them had studied below grade 10. The alleged incident had taken place at the victims' house in 110 (42%) cases. In 148 (57%) cases, the victim had given the "consent" for the alleged act. The pregnancy was confirmed in 22 (8%) at the time of examination. Hymenal tears were observed in 100(38%) cases and 11 had fresh tears. In 149 (57%) cases the assailant was the boy friend of the victim. Extragenital injuries were present only in 4 (1.5%) cases.

Conclusions: Majority of the victims were below 16 years of age belonging to low socio-economic class. Majority had given "consent" for the alleged act and this could be a reason for lack of extragenital injuries. This data highlights the magnitude of juvenile sexual abuse especially by the boy friends of the victims.