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SIRIWAN POOLTAWEE: RISK FACTORS OF UNINTENTIONAL INJURY AT HOME IN CHILDREN ONE TO FOUR YEARS OF AGE. THESIS ADVISOR: WINAI RATANASUWAN, M.D., M.P.H. NATCHAPORN PICHAINARONG, Dr. P.H., WIZIZ CHAVEEPOJNKAMJORN, D.V.M.,M.P.H., ADISAK PLITPONKARNPIM, M.D., M.P.H., 74 P. ISBN 974 – 664 – 947 - 7

A hospital-based case control study was done to investigate injuries occurring at home to children. The data was collected in children between 1 to 4 years of age who were resoled at the Leardsin Hospital, Bangkok between August – October 1999. The aims of the study were to determine the factors leading to childhood injuries. This study was matched for age and gender by 1:1 (121 pairs). The data was collected by interviewing their parents or caretakers. The statistical analysis was carried out using chi-square for univariate and multivariate tests. The p-value of less than 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.

The results showed that falls are the most common type of injury, accounting for 54.6%. The age 2 to 2.11 years old comprised the major age group (28.9%) sustaining injury by falls. 60.7% of the entire group were injured in the home and around the home (39.3%). Saturdays and Sundays were the days with most frequent injuries (16.5% and 18.2% respectively). 71.1% of the cases involved playing with others. Most of the victims were injured between 4.00 – 6.59 p.m., accounting for 32.2%. Head and neck were the most injured body region (45.5%). Considering the final multivariate to predict the relationship between injury and independent variables, it showed that children who had previous injuries had 19.22 times (95%CI 7.57 – 48.82) higher risk to be injured again than children who never had a past history of injury. Children who had behaviors that they could not settle down to anything for more than a few minutes also had a higher risk (OR = 19.73, 95%CI 6.11 – 63.74). Mothers working in and out of the home were a higher risk factor than housewives (OR = 4.14, 95%CI 1.57 – 10.93). Additionally, children who spent most of their time during day at a relative's house had a higher risk for injury than children who stayed at their own house. (OR = 3.48, 95% CI 1.02 – 11.81). Meanwhile, 37.9% of the children injured at relatives' houses and 50.8% of all injured children were not being supervised by the primary caretaker.

This study has provided information regarding the cause of childhood injuries and it will allow the health education team to educate pregnant women and mothers on childhood injuries prevention at antenatal and well baby clinics in hospitals. We therefore, suggest that children from families with these characteristics should be targeted for injury prevention education. The mass media should be used for public education.