



SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Traumatic brain injuries (TBI) are a serious public health problem with potentially devastating effects and far-reaching consequences. These injuries occur following a blow or jolt to the head or a penetrating head injury that disrupts the normal function of the brain. TBIs can cause death or lasting disability that can significantly impact victims, their families, their communities and the state.

The Present study has aimed to throw light upon deaths due to traumatic head injuries from the medico-legal point of view.

*** To fulfill the aim of this work, we have:**

- (1) Reviewed the literature related to head injuries where we looked into the type of head injury and cause of injury, the causative agent (Impalement), the mechanism of injuries, the different pathological lesions that occur in the scalp, the skull, and the brain, and lastly the medico-legal autopsies of the head.
- (2) Studied and analyzed the available reports of the cases of traumatic head injuries that had been referred to the morgue of Cairo during the period 2005 – 2009. In each report we've concentrated upon the following information. (The age, gender, instrument, type of trauma, mechanism of death, place of death, and lastly the manner of death).



*** The results of the study have showed that:**

- (1) Incidence of head injury have constituted (469) 27.4% of all cases (8, 570) that were dissected in the same period of the study.
- (2) The cases were grouped according to their ages into decades. We found the majority of cases were in the 3rd decade (151 cases), 4th decade (77 cases), 5th decade (73 cases), 2nd decade (58 cases), and 6th decade (49 cases).
- (3) Male represent 351 (74.8%) of 469 cases whereas female represent 118 (25.2%) cases.
- (4) The majority of cases 381 (81.2%) sustained blunt trauma while 88 represent (18.8%) of cases were injured by penetrating trauma.
- (5) The causes of head injuries were blunt object trauma (213=45.4%), fall from height (150=32.1%),rifled firearm weapons (48=10.2%), non rifled firearm weapons (30=6.4%), motor vehicle accidents (17=3.6^), and, sharp edged instruments & stab in eye (11=2.3%).
- (6) Manner of death in fatal head injuries was homicide in 333 (71.0%) of cases, suicide in 81 (17.3%) of cases, accidental in 54 (11.5%) of cases, and, undetermined in 1 (0.2%) of cases.
- (7) According to the place of death, about 254 (54.2%) of the victims of head injury reach hospital alive and then died and 199 (42.2%) died at scene of the crime whereas 16 (3.4%) died during transportation.

At the end of this study we noticed that traumatic head Injuries are very important due to:

- High incidence, it affects the victims during the period of peak activity and productivity so that it causes harmful effects to the family and society, and, also due to high prevalence of homicidal cases.