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Unintentional jet ski related injuries, Victoria, 2011/12-2015/16 (5 years).

Emergency department presentations, (includes admissions)

Results of analysis:

- Between July 2011 and June 2016 there were 238 presentations to emergency departments (EDs) in Victoria for injuries relating to jet skis. The number of ED presentations declined slightly over the five year period, from 56 in 2011/12 to 50 in 2015/16 [Table 1].
- Jet ski related injuries occurred in all age groups but declined after 50 years of age. Jet ski related injuries were most common among those aged 20-29 years (n=77, 32%) and among 0-19 year olds (n=59, 25%) [Table 2].
- Seventy-three percent of those with jet ski related injuries were males (n=174) [Table 3].
- The body regions most affected by jet ski related injuries were the knee & lower leg (n=36, 15%), followed by the ankle & foot (n=33, 14%) and the head (n=33, 14%) [Table 4].
- The most common types of injuries related to jet skis were dislocations, sprains & strains (n=61, 26%) and fractures (n=60, 25%) [Table 5].
- Around one quarter of patients attending EDs due to jet ski related injuries were admitted for further treatment (n=61, 26%) [Table 6].
- Mechanisms of jet ski injury included*:
 - Falling off the jet ski (includes flipping), (n=107, 45%).
 - Unspecified incident (no details) (n=40, 17%).
 - Jet ski accident (no details) (n=34, 14%).
 - Jet ski rider collided with another jet ski (n=14, 6%).
 - Jet ski collided with tree/boat or fell off and hit by boat (n=11, 5%).
 - Passenger on jet ski falling off (n=9, 4%).
 - Person towed behind jet ski (e.g. on biscuit or tyre) (n=9, 4%).
 - Jumping waves/hit by wave or wake (n=8, 3%).
 - Person hit by jet ski (non-rider) (n=6, 2%).

*Note that speed was mentioned in 26 cases (11%) (ranging from 30-120 kph)

Source:

Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset (VEMD): emergency department presentations, July 2011-June 2016.

The VEMD is an ongoing surveillance dataset of injury presentations to 39 Victorian public hospital emergency departments. From 2004 all public hospitals with a 24 hour service have participated in the data collection. The VEMD data is collected in accordance with National Minimum Data Standards (NMDS) for injury surveillance. While data is *not* coded using the ICD-10-AM system, the code set is similar and comparable.

Search criteria:

Cases recorded in the VEMD were extracted using the following criteria:

- Cases were selected if the financial year of ED presentation was 2011/12 to 2015/16.
- VEMD records were extracted if the "Description of event" text variable contained the terms "jet ski", "jetski" or "jett ski". Cases selected using the text variable were manually checked for relevance.
- Cases were retained if the "Human Intent" was coded to "Non-intentional harm".
- Cases were limited to incidence (excludes return visits and pre-arranged admissions).

Notes:

- Case identification is reliant on good data being provided. Data is collected in the busy emergency department, so detailed data collection is not always achieved. Hence these data may be an underestimate of the true number of cases.