

A review of motorcycle exhaust burns at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, Western Australia in 2011 and 2012

Dominic Sinagra¹, **Lisa Martin** ², Fiona Wood ³

¹ Burn Service of WA, Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, Subiaco, 6008, domsinagra@gmail.com

² Burn Injury Research Unit, University of Western Australia, Crawley, 6009. Lisa.martin3@health.wa.gov.au

³ Burn Service of WA, Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, Subiaco, 6008, Fiona.wood@health.wa.gov.au

The aim of the study was to review motorcycle vehicle exhaust burn injuries admitted to Princess Margaret Hospital for Children from 1 January 2011 to 1 January 2013 and assess these cases for common preventable risk factors.

Thirty-nine children were admitted with burn injury due to contact with motorcycle exhausts. Burns were small (mean 1.4% tbsa), almost half requiring surgery,, 75% were male, with a median age of 11 years. Most injuries occurred to the right leg whilst riding. Two thirds received no first aid. 75% of bikes did not have exhaust guards and 92% of riders were not wearing long trousers.

We conclude that education of burns first aid, the fitting of exhaust guards, and encouragement to wear long trousers when riding would reduce the incidence of this type of injury.

Key Words

Contact burn, burn, vehicle, motorcycle, exhaust, paediatric,

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