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Sports-Related Ocular Injuries

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Purpose: Ocular trauma sustained during sport is increasing in incidence, reflecting the rise in popularity of sport as recreation. The objective of this study was to determine the clinico-epidemiological features of sports-related ocular injuries. Methods: We retrospectively reviewed the records of 134 patients who presented to the Emergency room, São Paulo Hospital / UNIFESP, with sports-related ocular trauma. Data regarding initial and final visual acuity, biomicroscopy, funduscopy, intraocular pressure and treatment were collected. Results: Of the 134 included patients 91.0% were male and the mean age was 26 years. Initial visual acuity was worse than 0.1 in 24.6% of the cases. Of those, only 12 (36.4%) achieved visual acuity better than 0.7 in the last exam. Forty-six (34.3%) patients had severe anterior segment injury. Among those, 73.9% presented with hyphema and 4 underwent surgical anterior chamber washout. Posterior segment damage was present in 52 (38.8%). Retinal edema was seen in 39 patients and vitreous hemorrhage in 18 cases. Soccer was the leading cause of trauma (72.4%). None of the patients was wearing a protective eyewear at the time of the injury. **Conclusions**: These results indicate that sports trauma remains a significant cause of ocular morbidity. Most injuries occurred in soccer, which is, by far, the most widespread sport in Brazil. The great majority of injuries could have been prevented if adequate protective evewear had been worn. Eye care practitioners should advocate the use of protective eyewear for patients who participate in sports activities. **Key-words:** Eve trauma, sports, epidemiology, hyphema.