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VIOLENCE INDUCED OCULAR LESIONS

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Purpose: To describe the incidence of the ocular injuries violence induced found in patients that received eye care at a tertiary ophthalmic center at São Paulo – Brazil. Methods: Prospective observational study developed at São Paulo Hospital – UNIFESP in 2006. Patients victims of aggression and who were admitted at the emergency room with ocular lesions related to the trauma were included. All of them were submitted to a guestionnaire and complete ophthalmologic examination. Sex, age, trauma mechanism and the different types of injuries were evaluated. **Results:** Ocular lesions related to aggression accounted for 17,73% of all cases of ocular trauma attended in 2006 (N=846). The mean age was 31 years (range, 3-60) and it occurred most commonly in the group from 15 to 30 years old (33,33%). Men were more likely to have an eye injury (77,33%). The punch aggression was the trauma cause in 46,66% of the patients, followed by thrown stones. Soft tissue lesions (50,0%), such as eyelid laceration, and subconjunctival hemorrhage (40,66%) were the most found injuries. Traumatic uveitis and the commotion retinae were also seen in a great number of patients. Inicial visual acuity was 1.0 at the affected eye in 38,66% of the patients. **Conclusion:** Violence induced injuries had a higher incidence among young male adults and a punch was the most common mechanism of trauma. There was a predominance of blunt trauma and half of the patients had soft tissue lesions.