

Abstract

Aim: To review paediatric maxillofacial and oral surgery procedures performed at the Wits Oral Health Centre (WOHC) over a 5-year-period.

Materials and Methods: This was a retrospective record review study at WOHC, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. Records of paediatric patients who had treatment from 2013 to 2017 were included in the study. Data collected included the age of patients, gender, distribution of scope and type of treatment. Data was analysed and results presented as frequencies and percentages.

Results: A total of 694 paediatric patients presented for treatment during the study period. There were more males (54.2%) than females (45.8%), and the majority of patients were in the 11-17-year age category. Oral surgery, treatment of pathoses and management of trauma were the most common procedures at 34%, 29% and 20.5% respectively. There was a statistically significant difference between the number of surgical procedures carried out under general anaesthetic and that under local anaesthetic ($p < 0.001$). The removal of third molars was more common than other oral surgical procedures. A high occurrence of paediatric trauma was observed in males aged between 11-17 years. Mandibular fractures, followed by dentoalveolar fractures, were the most common fracture types. The most commonly diagnosed pathological conditions were odontogenic cysts (23.15%), benign odontogenic tumours (22.31%) and fibro-osseous lesions (19.02%). Mucous extravasation cyst was the most common salivary gland pathology.

Conclusion:

Most oral and maxillofacial surgical procedures in paediatric patients are performed in the 11-17-year category. The removal of impacted 3rd molars was the most common surgical procedure and the management of ameloblastomas appears to be the most common odontogenic tumour in this age group. Future studies are required to provide insight into the reasons, patterns and distribution of paediatric maxillofacial surgery. Results from such studies, especially prospective ones, will form the basis for design of educational campaigns and preventive strategies aimed particularly at the 11-17-year age group.