Study of 213 insurer files related to disputes due to defects in the exploration of hand wounds in emergencies departments

Dr Hadrien Houdré, Dr Jordane Mouton, Pr Franck Dujardin, Dr Roberto Beccari, Dr André Gillibert, Dr Mélanie Autran, Pr Isabelle Auquit-Auckbur
No conflict of interest
Introduction

- About 2 000 000 consultations / year
- EPAC 2016 : 1 909 995 consultations / year (hand and upper limb)
- Eurosafe 2016 : 1 999 393 hand trauma / year

Livre Blanc de la chirurgie de la main 2018
https://www.santepubliquefrance.fr/maladies-et-traumatismes/traumatismes/articles/enquete-permanente-sur-les-accidents-de-la-vie-courante-epac

- Important socio-professional consequences
  - 25% of the workplace accidents

SHAM

- 1er medical liability insurer in France
  - 70% of public institutions
  - 30% of private establishments

- 10% of Emergency Services Compensation Requests in 2013 = Failure to Explore a Hand Wound in the Emergency Department

- What are the defects that have led to these claims?
Materials and method

- Retrospective study of 213 anonymized files (2008-2012)

- **Inclusion criteria**
  - Compensation claim linked to failure to explore a hand wound in the ER.
  - Public or private establishments
  - SOS hand or not
  - All insured by SHAM
  - Files concluded

- **Exclusion criteria**
  - Files not concluded
  - Litigation related to something other than a failure to explore hand wound in the emergency room (surgery, sequelae, EMS, etc...)
  - Litigation related to a defect in the exploration of a wound upstream of the wrist
Results

- 213 files analysed
- 170 files included
- 37 years of average age (1 to 77 years)
- 58% of men
- 50% traumatized right hand
- 87% right-handed
Socio-professional background

- 59% of patients had manual activity
- 26% work-related accident
- 68% domestic accident
- 43% said they were tinkering
- 34% were engaged in sports
- 5% were engaged in a musical activity
Center

- 91% public establishment
- 4% CHU
- 9% private establishment
- 84% institution had a surgical service (specialized in hand surgery or not)
Injury

- 100% deeper than the dermis
- 88% net cut
- 3% crushing and 2% bites
- 28% Thumb, 18% index, 12% multiple fingers
- 67% palm face
Exploration

- 68% taken care of by a doctor of the emergency department, 16% by a resident
- Imaging performed in 11% of cases
- 52% of cases occurred during the day

**Total no exploration** 41%
- Exploration under local anesthesia in 50%
- 11% exploration by resident/senior surgery
Injuries gone unnoticed

- 74% tendon
- 35% nervous
- 12% foreign bodies
- 11% vascular
- 2% fractures
The surgery

- First consultation with a specialist on the 35\textsuperscript{th} day
- First surgery on the 51\textsuperscript{st} day (median at D26)
- Only one intervention in 66\% of cases
- 57\% in outpatient surgery
- Length of hospitalization: Average 1 week, Median 1 day
Socio-economic consequences

- Time off work: average 158 days, median 69.5 days
- Permanent Functional Deficit (FPD) average 3.9%, median 2%
- Suffering (SE): average 2/7, median 2/7
- Aesthetic Injury (PE): average 0.66/7, median 0.5/7
- Average consolidation time 369 days, median 283 days
- Amicable procedure 65%
- Civil liability of the practitioner or institution selected in 80% of cases
- Average cost: 6224 euros, median 2595 euros
- Total cost: 1,026,902.7 euros
Discussion

- Population concerned
  - Young active
  - Manual
  - 1/4 workers

- Individual and collective socio-economic impact of delay in care
- Thumb/index palmar face wound
- Public establishment
  - Bias related to the type of SHAM members

- 41% lack of exploration!
- Lack of hand anatomy/specific clinical examination
Conclusion

- Spreading the recommendations SFMU (2005) and FESUM (2007) for the exploration of hand wounds in the emergencies department

- Need to explore any hand wound

- Strengthen student/intern medical training on hand anatomy and trauma exam

- Working closely with emergency physicians
Thanks !