

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



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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

Allieu Y. La main traumatique : Montpellier. Euro Médecine, 10-14 novembre 1987. 1987



SHAM

- **1^{er} 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

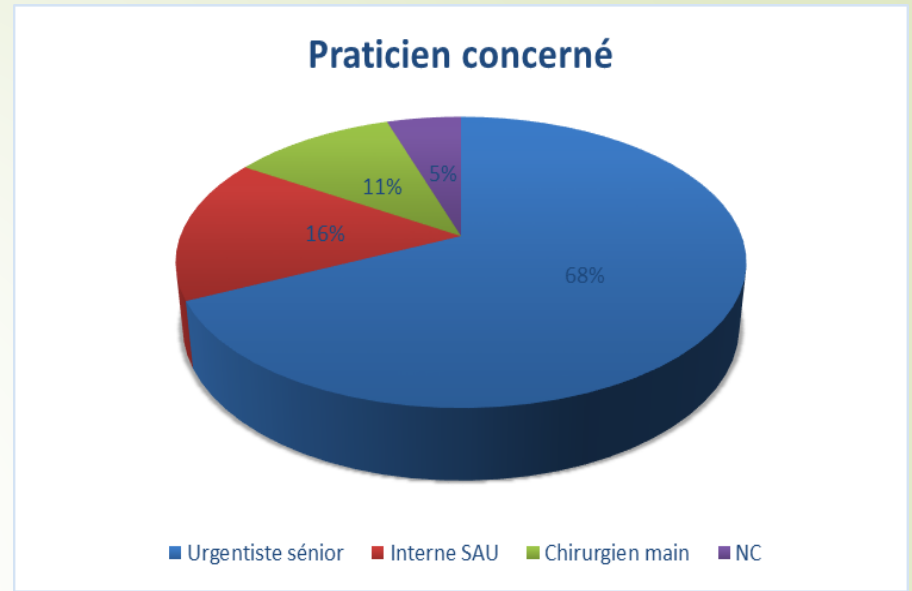
- **91% public establishment**
- **4% CHU**
- **9% private establishment**
- **84% institution had a surgical service (specialized in hand surgery or not)**

Injury

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



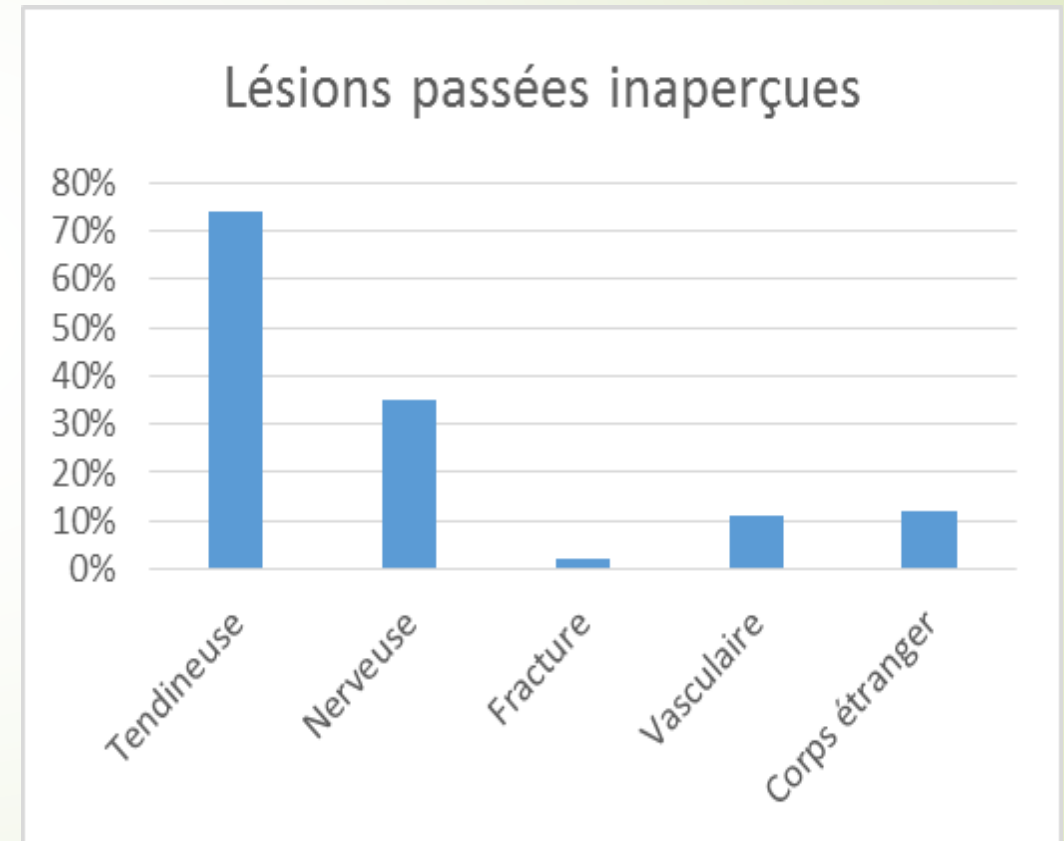
Exploration



- 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



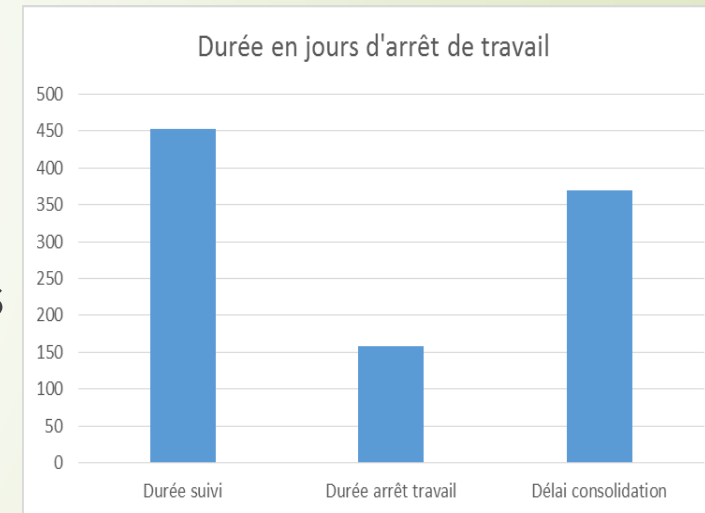


The surgery

- ▶ First consultation with a specialist on the 35th day
- ▶ First surgery on the 51st 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 !

