

## **Epidemiological Features and Management of Complex Neck Trauma from an ENT Surgeon's Perspective**

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### **Abstract**

**Objectives:** The aim of this study is to present a clear picture of the epidemiological aspects pertaining to the cases of neck trauma addressing to the ENT Emergency Room, as well as to display the complexity of the diagnostic and therapeutic management employed in two important Romanian ENT Departments - „Sfantul Spiridon” Hospital Iasi and „Sfanta Maria” Hospital Bucharest.

**Material and methods:** We conducted a retrospective study on 538 patients with neck trauma that were referred to the above mentioned ENT Departments between March 2009 – March 2011, selecting 27 cases with forensic implications.

**Results:** In terms of aetiological mechanism, the most frequent neck injuries in our study were penetrating neck injuries due to assault or self-mutilation with white weapons (knives, razor blades, forks, glass) - 56%, followed by blunt trauma cases due to car accident, strangulation or accidental fall – 44%. The most important clinical findings recorded at admission were polytraumas (24.14%), hematomas, fractures, subcutaneous emphysema or skin perforation with visceral damages (representing each 13.8%) and tissue rip (10.34%), important bleedings (6.89%), as well as perforation of neck organs (3.45%). The most frequent postoperative complications were postoperative pharyngo-cutaneous fistula (7.4%) and laryngo-tracheal stenosis (7.4%). There were also 3 other patients with long-term complications, such as acute mediastinitis (3.4%) recurrential paralysis with Gerhardt's syndrome (3.4%) and dysphagia (3.4%).

**Key words:** neck traumas, penetrating neck injuries, blunt neck trauma, complications of neck traumas

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