**Crash characteristics of underage drivers by using surveillance data from hospitals, Karachi, Pakistan**

Teen drivers are involved in fatal crashes three times more often compared with adults.[1] There is a difference of 30 versus 5.3 crashes per million miles driven for teens and adult drivers respectively.[2] Adolescents are more vulnerable to road traffic crashes due to speeding, violation of safety rules, inexperience and not going through proper training of driving. Drink driving and use of cell phones are also risk factors [3-5].

In most countries the minimum driving age is 18 years but some adolescents start to drive earlier than the legal age. A growing desire to be independent, experience adventure, and peer pressure are some important causes.[6] Graduate driving license is a program to countermeasure the risks for young drivers by restricting their exposure to risk.[7] Such programs are successful in reducing fatal crashes in young drivers.

Research on adolescent driving is mostly from high- income countries (HICs) where road built environment is safer, road traffic rules stricter and obtaining a driver’s license is linked to training of both driving and traffic rules.[4,8] The situation in most low and lower-middle-income countries (LMICs) is very different with unsafe built environment, traffic rules that are not followed, lack of helmet and seat belt use, license is easy in LMICs by paying bribes.

The researches about circumstances and consequences of crashes by young drivers as well as their demographic and socioeconomic characteristics were studied in HICs. However, this topic is almost untouched in LMICs. Our aim is to determine demographic and crash characteristics of road crashes involving adolescents drivers of cars and motorcycles in Karachi, Pakistan.

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