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

Teen drivers have been involved in fatal crashes three times more than adults.[1] There is a difference of 30 versus 5.3 crashes per million miles drive for teens and adult drivers respectively.[2] The 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 of the countries, the minimum driving age is 18 years. However, in some families, adolescents start driving earlier than the legal age due to many reasons. Their growing desire to be independent, adventure taking and peer pressure are few of the important causes.[6] Graduate driving license is a program to countermeasure the risks for young drivers by restricting their exposure to risk.[7] The program is successful in reducing fatal crashes in young drivers.

The research in area of teen driving is mostly undertaken in high- income countries (HICs) where road built environment is safe, road traffic rules are strict and obtaining license is linked to training both for driving and traffic rules.[4,8] The situation in most low and lower-middle-income countries (LMICs) is altogether contrast. The built environment is not safe, traffic rules are not being followed, use of helmet and seat belt is extremely uncommon and getting 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 objective for this study is to determine demographic and crash characteristics of road crashes involving adolescents drivers of cars and motorcycles in Karachi, Pakistan.

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