

INTRODUCTION

Home is deemed as a safe environment, however there are multiple hidden hazards. Safety at home begin with sufficient knowledge on prevention, adequate supervision and educating the growing child on the potential of dangers. By this, common home related injuries may be prevented such as falls, burns and scalds, poisoning, drowning, strangulation and suffocation.

In rare instances, there are cases of overrunning the child by the car while driving in and out of house premises. It's uncommon, but accidents such as these frequently hit the front pages and may cause severe amount of distress and guilt amongst parents. As the norm that prevention is always better than cure, highlighting on prevention of such domestic accidental injuries are paramount.

CASE REPORT

A 1 year 4 months old child, an ex-premature at 28 weeks, was brought into the emergency department after the father allegedly reversed his hatchback car over his child accidentally at the house, as he was attempting to leave his premises. When the mother was looking for the child, that's when they realized that the child was overrun and was found lying underneath the left back tyres, requiring the child to drive forward to release the child stuck underneath the car.

The child was brought in by the grief-stricken father. Upon initial assessment the child's GCS was E1V4M4, with stridor, intermittent apnoea, paradoxical chest rise, bleeding from bilateral auditory canal with facial congestion and tyre marks over the right side of the face. The child was intubated the child for airway protection and given fluid resuscitation adequately.

Immediate eFAST showed no free fluids and LUS showed no evidence of pneumothorax. Urgent CT scans were performed according to the injuries sustained as per primary and secondary surveys. The child sustained bilateral lung contusions, multiple rib and sternal fracture, pneumocranium with no evidence of acute intracranial haemorrhage and required a multidisciplinary team approach for the management and stabilisation of the child. Child also developed traumatic pancreatitis evidence by elevated urine diastase. He was on conservative management and discharged well at 11th day hospitalization.

DISCUSSION

Homes are frequently adult- friendly and pose multiple risks to the growing child. As the child begins to be mobile, more risks are present. Hence, supervision and altering of the home environment and proper education of safety to the ever –growing child appears paramount to the prevention of accidents at home. As for this child, the following are some of the major risks and how to prevent Car accidents within home compound:-

- *Always ensure that the location and safety of the child, with confirmation with others before attempting to manoeuvre the vehicles within home compound.*
- *The non-driver needs to be always aware of the child's location and secure the child within the car seat or inside the home, before attempting to move the vehicles.*
- *Ensure child seats, child locks are in place to prevent the child from disembarking the vehicle without knowledge, so as to car injuries while moving the vehicles.*



Figure 1: Tire mark over anterior chest wall and upper abdomen



Figure 2: Petechial over right side of face likely due to increased thoracic pressure onto the SVC upon injury

CONCLUSION

In a nutshell, prevention is better than cure is the greatest mantra for home safety. A high degree of caution and common sense may go far in preventing injuries and accidents at home. Parents or guardians should always be aware of the changing dangers that may be posed within home as the child is growing. Injuries or accidents at home may also trigger a cycle of guilt and anguish amongst parents if a preventable cause of injury was overlooked. Clearing hidden hazards and educating the growing child on dangers and implications, may be of utmost importance in home safety.

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DECLARATION OF CONFLICT

The authors whose names are listed certify that they have NO affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity with any financial or nonfinancial interest.

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