

Aetiology of Spinal Cord Injury: Traumatic vs Non-Traumatic

Traumatic - It is estimated every 8 hours someone in UK sustains a new traumatic SCI – approximately, 1000-1200 per year and it is estimated 40,000 people are living in the community with the effects of SCI. Only recently has data been collected systematically which, when analysed, will give a better understanding of the exact epidemiology but falls (including domestic, work related and deliberate jumps) and road traffic accidents (including pedestrian and motorcycle) are the most common causes. Sports and leisure causes are next with violence (guns shot wounds, stab injuries and assaults) the 4th cause but probably increasing as a proportion.

Non-Traumatic - Probably, although it is unknown, the same number again sustain spinal cord damage through non traumatic insults including tumours (benign and malignant), inflammatory, vascular and degenerative causes