**Management of pediatric war-related injuries during the Second Gulf War**

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**Background:** The anatomy and physiology of children are different from adults, and they respond differently to injury including war injuries.

**Objectives:** We aimed to study the demography, mechanism, and outcome of pediatric war-related injuries of the Second Gulf War.

**Methods:** War-related injured children who are less than 18 years old and who were treated at Mubarak Al-Kabeer Teaching Hospital from August 1990 to September 1991 were retrieved from the War Trauma Registry. Studied variables included age, gender, and anatomical site and mechanism of injury, surgical management, and clinical outcome.

**Results:** 31 out of 361 of admitted patients were children (8.6%). They had a median (range) age of 15 (1-17). Twenty six (84 %) were males. All patients were civilians. Majority were caused by blast injuries (52%) followed by bullets (32.3%). Majority were Kuwaiti (48%) and Jordanian (42%). Injuries were highest in the lower and upper limbs (58% and 32 % respectively). Five patients (16.1 %) presented with shock. Six patients needed laparotomy (all were positive), one needed thoracotomy, and three chest injuries were treated with chest tubes. Three patients had femoral artery injuries which were repaired (two venous grafts and one end to end anastomosis; one of these failed). The median (range) hospital stay was 5.5 (1-42) days. All patients survived but one patient had paraplegia, one had above knee amputation and two had below knee amputation.

**Conclusions:** Pediatric injuries in conventional wars inside cities in which civilians were not directly targeted were less than 10% of injured victims. Despite that the price of these injuries was high.

**Key words:** war, injury, children, mechanism, treatment.