

A case series of grinder related injury in untrained individuals during pandemic.

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INTRODUCTION:

Angle grinder is a powerful tool that is well known to cause significant occupational hazard¹. However, with the emergence of COVID19 pandemic more grinder related injuries were reported among untrained individuals.

REPORT:

A total of 13 cases of grinder related injuries were reported from August till November 2021 in our centre. Out of these 13 cases, 7 of them were non-occupational related which involved injuries to either upper limbs or lower limbs. The patients were all males ranging from age 21 to 70 years old.

The injuries range from as simple as laceration wound over left index finger to a more severe injury like open fracture right 1st metacarpal bone with extensor tendon cut. Other injuries include partial amputation of right index finger at MCPJ level, degloving wound over left forearm, laceration wound over right foot, open fracture distal phalanx of right big toe with extensor hallucis longus tendon cut and deep laceration wound right hand with extensor tendon cut.

All 7 patients required surgical treatment which include wound debridement and toilet and suturing, K-wire insertion and also tendon repair.

Figure 1: Angle grinder with broken blade.



Figure 2: Clinical presentation of a patient who sustained degloving wound left forearm and right hand



DISCUSSION:

Majority of the injuries that are reported in this case series occurred due to lack of experience and poor technique in handling the grinder. With the Movement Control Order (MCO) implemented by the government during pandemic, netizens spend more of their time doing DIY activities that involve the use of grinder.

CONCLUSION:

Grinder related injury used to be seen commonly in factory workers in Muar as it is known as furniture hub city in Malaysia but pandemic has resulted in more DIY activities among netizens causing more non-occupational injury to be reported.

REFERENCES:

1. Curran, M. G., Clesham, K., Irwin, S., Hughes, A., & Kennedy, M. (2021). Angle Grinder injuries in orthopedics: A case series and review of the literature. *Trauma Case Reports*, 32, 100413.