



Who crashes their car following wrist fracture?

The questions

1. What proportion of drivers were in car crashes before and after wrist fractures?
2. What are potential demographic and/or clinical factors associated with increased odds of being a driver in a car crash following wrist fracture?



The study

Demographic, clinical and car crash data were obtained for more than 37,100 adults with a wrist fracture managed at Western Australian hospitals over a 10-year period.

- The proportion of drivers in a car crash was compared for the two years prior to and following the fracture date.
- Variables associated with increased odds of crashing in the post-fracture period were identified through statistical analysis.

The result

Overall, there was a 3.2 per cent decrease in the proportion of drivers in a car crash following wrist fracture, persisting for the entire two years post-fracture.

But people with a more severe wrist fracture injury had 79 per cent higher odds of having a crash in the first three months post-fracture.

Age and gender are already known to influence risk of car crash. After wrist fracture, employment status was also related to car crash risk.



Clinical implications

Physiotherapists and hand therapists should inform adults with more severe wrist fracture injuries of the increased likelihood of car crashes for three months after their fracture.

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