

Fatal and survived motorcycle accidents: a selected topics for medicolegal evaluation

Janík M., Komarekova I.

Institute of forensic medicine and medicolegal expertises, Jessenius Faculty of Medicine, Comenius University, Martin, Slovak Republic

SUMMARY

Motorcyclists are extremely vulnerable road participants who are exposed to severe, often fatal injuries. Relative to four - wheeled vehicles, motorcycle pose a greater hazard of death or serious injury to operators and passengers. In fatal crashes, the motorcyclist typically collides with moving or stationary objects in the riding environment. The most common mechanism of crashes is hitting a moving vehicle followed by hitting a stationary object. The mechanism of injury resulting in death usually comes from severe blunt force trauma, creating internal and external injuries to the motorcyclist, especially craniocerebral, spinal, and sometimes with very characteristic injury patterns. The paper also identified effects of alcohol, which represent a significant risk factor for motorcycle operators. Presented concise review of selected risk factors and typical motorcycle-related injuries may be useful for both forensic pathologists, clinicians and law enforcement in preventive and repressive steps.

Keywords: motorcycle fatalities – risk factors – injury patterns – alcohol impairment – medicolegal study

Motocyklové nehody: vybraná témata pro soudnělékařské hodnocení

SOUHRN

Motocyklísti sú vystavený závažným až smrteľným poraneniam omnoho častejšie ako ostatní účastníci cestnej premávky. Typickým mechanizmom smrteľnej dopravnej nehody motocyklistu je jeho kolízia s pohybujúcim sa dopravným prostriedkom alebo náraz motocyklistu do pevnej prekážky. Najčastejším mechanizmom vzniku poranení je tupý náraz, zapríčiňujúci rozsiahle vonkajšie a vnútorné poranenia, z nich najviac nebezpečné sú úrazy hlavy a miechy. Predkladaný článok taktiež poukazuje na výrazne negatívny účinok alkoholovej opitosti na dopravnú úrazovosť motocyklistov. Prehľad vybraných rizikových faktorov s rozborom typickým poranením motocyklistov má za cieľ pomôcť nielen súdnym lekárom a klinikom pri ich dennodennej praxi, ale aj predstaviteľom represívnych zložiek štátnej moci v účinnejšej prevencii takýchto úmrtí.

Klíčovú slová: úmrtia motocyklistov – rizikové faktory – poranenia motocyklistov – ovplyvnenie alkoholom – súdnolekárska štúdia

Soud Lek 2012; 57(4): 71–74

The ubiquitous character of motor vehicles in modern society is reflected in the practice of forensic medicine. Road accidents are a leading cause of deaths and serious injuries around the world, with about 1.2 million people killed each year (1). World Health Organisation has predicted that traffic fatalities will be the sixth leading cause of death worldwide and the second leading cause of disability in developing countries by the year 2020. The risk of death for motorcyclists in Europe is 18 times greater than that of other road users (2). In U.S., per vehicle mile traveled, motorcycle riders have even a 34-times higher risk of death in a crash than road participants driving other types of motor vehicles (3). While lower - extremity injuries most commonly occur in all motorcycle collisions, head and spinal injuries are most frequent in fatal crashes. In 2009 Lin and Kraus created comprehensive review of risk factors and patterns of motorcycle injuries, which comprises 220 articles (4). Ho-

wever, this study synthesizes recent reports concerning motorcycle accidents from a medicolegal point of view.

ALCOHOL IMPAIRMENT

Traffic accidents are often associated with the use of alcohol, psychoactive medicaments or illicit drugs (5–11). When motorcycle operators are under influence of drugs or alcohol, their death rates are worse than those of nonalcohol or nondrug motorcyclists (12–15). Approximately one in four automobile driver fatalities in the U.S. was alcohol - related during 2005; in comparison, a higher proportion of motorcycle rider fatalities (one in three) were related to alcohol in the same year (16). According to MAIDS study, alcohol use by motorcyclists was reported in 36 of the 921 investigated cases (17). For example, Larsen analyzed a series of fatal motorcycle accidents, from 41 victims, 26 (66 %) had measurable blood alcohol concentration (18). The large prospective study of 1082 accident - involved riders revealed, that 393 motorcyclists had been drinking alcohol prior to crash (19). A single motorcycle simulator study has shown that the most common fault for intoxicated operators at blood alcohol concentration ranging from 0.36 to 0.56 g.kg⁻¹ was to "run-off-road", particularly when negotiating curves (20). Four motorcycle basal riding skills (offset weave, hazard avoidance task, curve circuit and emergency stop) under the influence of alcohol were analyzed by

✉ Correspondence address:

Martin Janík, M.D.

Institute of forensic medicine and medicolegal expertises

Jessenius Faculty of Medicine, Martin

Comenius University, Slovak Republic

e-mail: janik.mato@gmail.com

Creaser *et al* (21). There was a statistically significant main effect of alcohol for *offset weave* (the weave task required riders to maintain control and balance of the motorcycle through a simple weave (in-line) and a complex weave (offset) and *curve circuit* (the curve circuit task required riders to control the lateral position and speed of the motorcycle through a loop circuit with curves marked by lane boundaries). The *hazard avoidance task* (pay attention to a directional signal that was turned on just before reaching an obstacle, and then control the motorcycle through an indicated escape lane to simulate a hazard avoidance maneuver) was a marginally statistically significant. Alcohol have no statistically significant effects on *emergency stop* (rapid breaking while maintaining suitable control of the motorcycle). In general, intoxicated motorcyclists demonstrate longer response times and adopted larger tolerances leading to more task performance errors (9,21).

MECHANISM OF INJURY

Motorcyclists are vulnerable road users who are exposed to severe trauma. Physical coordination, balance, and skills are required to operate an unstable vehicle (22). Motorcycle accidents are complicated situational transactions in which motorcycle rider are in motion among other motor vehicles, pedestrians along public roads that are composed of a variety of natural and engineered objects (23). Of all types of road users, motorcyclists have the highest risk for fatal and non-fatal injuries (4). The risk for death of motorcyclists is 30-times greater than in car drivers (4). Generally, motorcycle accidents kill motorcyclists in one of the following ways: (a) collision with another motor vehicle, (b) collision with stationary, nonvehicular object, (c) some other injurious maneuver by motorcyclists, for example loss of control and falling of motorcycle. Hitting a moving vehicle (collision with motor vehicles or other motorcycles) is the main mechanism of injury (24). Roadside trees had the largest positive effect among all objects on the odds that a colliding motorcyclist would be killed (23). Other engineered systems that are part of the road infrastructure were also potentially lethal – bridge components, guardrail ends, lampposts, etc.

Public policy implications of the object of impact analysis include more careful consideration of (i) locations chosen for signage and other roadside objects and (ii) choices for the type, density, and elastic limits of roadside architecture put in place in areas with more operating motorcyclists (23). This could be called a *target softening* initiative that creates roadside arrangements less harmful to motorcyclists or other motor vehicle occupants. In conjunction with the object of impact, higher-speed collisions substantially increase the risk of death.

SELECTED INJURY PATTERNS OF MOTORCYCLISTS

One of the most commonly encountered types of trauma resulting in serious injury or in death is blunt force injury. Many blunt force injuries, such as those that occur in traffic accidents, involve forces that are associated with sudden deceleration (or acceleration in certain motor vehicle – related cases). By virtue of their exposed position, motorcyclists are functionally similar to ejected vehicle occupants. Similar types of injuries are often seen, including extensive road rash. In addition, pelvic and extremity injuries are often severe because of the rider's exposed position and because of the interaction between the motorcycle and rider in the course of attempted evasive maneuvers. Motorcyclists are also unique in the extent of interaction with the *other* vehicle during collisions. Either the motorcycle or the colliding vehicle may produce patterned injuries on the body of the rider.

1. Spinal injuries

Traffic accident accounted for more than 50 % of spinal cord injury in the European countries (25). Although spinal injuries sustained during motorcycle crashes are relatively low (ranging from 1 % to 11 % of all injuries) compared to lower extremity or head injuries, often lead to death, or severe impairment and disability (26–30). The overall statistics on the reported incidence of motorcycle spinal injury may be underestimated as many crash victims do not survive the accident and their deaths are attributed to more pronounced visible lethal injuries such as head injuries (31,32). Single vehicle crashes are well-known to be more severe compared to multiple vehicle crashes for both passenger cars and motorcycles (13,32,33,34). A single vehicle crash exhibits a higher likelihood of death when the vehicle runs off the road and collides with a fixed object, such as a tree or a pole (35–37).

In single vehicle crashes, the factor most strongly associated with the risk of serious injury is collision with fixed objects (38,39,40). For example, guardrails, one of the most common types of barrier, have been demonstrated to cause a significantly higher fatality risk to the motorcyclist than the person in a passenger vehicle upon collision (41). In France and Austria, 4,7% of motorcycle accidents involving injury or death entail guardrail impacts, with mortality rates ranging from 9,75 to 15 % (42). Furthermore, a recent study in the United States by *Daniello and Gabler* shows that compared to collision with the ground, collision with a roadside fixed object is at least 4 times more likely to result in fatality (43). They also show that fatality risk of striking a guardrail is 7 times greater than the risk of striking the ground (43). The main spinal segments typically injured in this manner are thoracic as this segment is firm and rigid; therefore, it requires a high impact loading to cause the injuries (44). Although crash configuration involving side impact and head-on occurred more frequently, the rear-end impacted motorcyclist shows the highest risk of spinal injury (45).

Helmets have helped to reduce head injury but they did not seem to offer corresponding protection for the spine. Some of the studies suggested that helmets could cause spinal injury especially to the neck or cervical spine (46,47) but some other studies have found no difference in the incidence of spinal injury between helmeted and unhelmeted motorcyclists (48,49,50). Furthermore, *Goslar et al* found that there was no significant association between location of spine fracture and helmet use (51). According to study of *Hitosugi et al.* most brain stem injuries involving the pons or medulla oblongata were accompanied by skull base fractures and atlantooccipital and atlantoaxial dislocation, regardless of the impact area (52). In most cases of cervical spinal injury (C1 – C7), the impact was from the anterior direction (52).

2. Perigenital and genital injuries

In „tandem“ motorcycle accidents, especially when one rider survive, it is very important to distinguish the motorcycle driver from the passenger. Certain parts of motorcycle, such as handlebars, pedals, fuel tank as well as other components may cause characteristic injuries in occupants at collision. One of the characteristic and most useful injury complex that distinguishes the driver from a passenger are contusions and lacerations around the scrotum, perineum and inguinal region, known as a *fuel tank injury* (53,54). The fuel tank injury results from gliding and striking of the scrotum and perineum of the rider on the fuel tank. Fuel tank injury is comparatively rare in even drivers of motorcycle accidents because it may occur only from a head-on collision (55). However *Ihama et al.* published extremely rare case, where also passenger suffered injuries around the groin area (55). Presence of genital and perigenital injuries, including traumatic testicular dislocation, although there are not pathognomic, may be very useful in forensic evaluation of motorcycle - related accidents (56).

3. Massive traumatic lesions

A motorcycle rider often sustains multiple injuries in a collision occurrence. Impact of a motorcyclist by a large vehicle or solid object often produces extensive deformation of the head and crushing thoracoabdominal injuries. A more clear view of the nature of head injuries can be made by manual reposition of the cranial and facial parts of the skull, or in extreme cases stuffed cranial cavity with operating masks or paper pulp, then sewn back to reapproximate the edges of the lacerations (57). Di Maio reports number of motorcycle operators beheaded or having arms avulsed (58). Examination of the amputated heads and extremities shows sharp edges of the wounds, almost as if they had been produced by a sharp, edged instrument. Brandimarti published case of collision of motorcyclist and guardrail, where the body of victim was torn apart at a level of twelfth thoracic vertebra (59). Ihama *et al* described unusual case of complete decapitation in which a roadblock chain had been wrapped around the neck of a motorcycle driver (60).

MISCELLANEOUS RISK FACTORS

Younger motorcyclists are more likely to be at-fault in the event of a collision, as a riders without insurance, or not wearing helmet (61). Similarly, motorcyclists were less likely to be at-fault when the other driver was of younger age or was driving under the influence of alcohol, without insurance, or not wearing their safety belt (61). Riders on newer motorcycles were also more likely to be at-fault (61). Byard point out peculiar, however relatively frequent risk factor - increasing of body weight of motorcycle riders (62). While it is recognized that obesity increases the risk of a range of medical conditions, including hypertension, diabetes mellitus, cardiac disease, and pulmonary thromboembolism, the association with injuries is less well appreciated (63). It has, however, been

shown that there is an increased risk of lethal and nonlethal injuries in motor vehicle crashes in obese individuals (63). Given that the energy involved in an impact is directly proportional to both mass and velocity (squared), it is perhaps not surprising that large unrestrained individuals would be at higher risk of injury (64). Age increased the chances of death. The effects of age among the correlates of death by motorcycle are likely related to (a) less physical resiliency on the part of older riders to patterns of injury generated in motorcycle crashes and (b) the slower reaction time and reduced sensory and perceptual ability of older riders to avoid lethal crashes (65,66).

CONCLUSIONS

Recent trends in motorcycle fatalities may have changed in developed and developing countries. Although helmets are efficient in reducing severe head injuries among motorcyclists, they not offer corresponding protection for the spine. Sobriety checkpoints, mandatory jail terms and administrative licence revocation should be effective in reducing alcohol-related motorcycle deaths. Differences in risk and injury patterns between motorcycle operators and passenger remain to be investigated. Injuries around the groin area and traumatic testicular displacement, know as fuel tank injury are rare, but very specific and important findings in medicolegal assessment. Competent researchers messaged that "the greatest potential to reduce the death rate lies with accident prevention, rather than through improved treatment of injuries". Future research should focus more frequently on the cooperation between hospital and trauma information and police reporting on motorcycle-related deaths. In cases of fatal motorcycle accident close communication between police and forensic pathologists is essential, because autopsy findings may be misleading in the absence of satisfactory accident scene information.

REFERENCES

- Riffat SM, Tay R, Barros A. Severity of motorcycle crashes in Calgary. *Accid Anal Prev* (2011), doi:10.1016/j.aap.2011.02.025. In press 2012.
- European Commission. Transport: motorcycles, mopeds and road safety. Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/transport/road_safety/users/motorcyclists-mopeds/index_en.htm.
- NHTSA. Fatality Analysing Reporting System (FARS) (online). www.fars.nhtsa.dot.gov [cit. 15.09.2008].
- Lin MR, Kraus JF. A review of risk factors and patterns of motorcycle injuries. *Accid Anal Prev* 2009; 41: 710–722.
- Kelly E, Darke S, Ross J. A review of drug use and driving: epidemiology, impairment, risk factors and risk perceptions. *Drug Alcohol Rev* 2004; 23(3): 319–344.
- Walsh JM, Gier JJ, Christophersen AS, Verstraete AG. Drugs and driving. *Traffic Inj Prev* 2004; 5(4): 241–253.
- Raes E, Neste T, Verstraete AG, Lopez D, Hughes B, Griffiths P. Drug Use, Impaired Driving and Traffic Accidents. European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and DrugAddiction, Lisbon. http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/attachements.cfm/att_65871_EN_Insight8.pdf (online).
- Straka Ľ, Štuller F, Novomeský F, Zelený M. Dopad akútneho alkoholizmu na mortalitu žien v regióne severného Slovenska. *Soud Lek* 2009; 54(4): 52–55.
- Straka Ľ, Štuller F, Novomeský F. Letálne intoxikácie alkoholom a úmrtia v ťažkom stupni opitosti v regióne severného Slovenska v rokoch 1994–1996 a 2003–2005: súdnolekárska komparatívna štúdia. *Soud Lek* 2008; 53(1): 2–7.
- Straka Ľ, Štuller F, Novomeský F, Novotný V. Otravy alkoholom a úmrtia v ťažkom stupni opitosti v regióne severného Slovenska: súdnolekárska reflexia. *Psychiatrie pro praxi* 2008; 9(2): 80–82.
- Straka Ľ, Zubor P, Novomeský F, et al. Fatal alcohol intoxication in women: A forensic autopsy study from Slovakia. *BMC Public Health* 2011; 11: 924.
- Shibata A, Fukuda K. Risk factors of fatality in motor vehicle traffic accidents. *Accid Anal Prev* 1994; 26(3): 391–397.
- Shankar V, Mannering F. An exploratory multinomial logit analysis of single-vehicle motorcycle accident severity. *J Safety Res* 1996; 27(3): 183–194.
- Williams M, Hoffman ER. Alcohol use and motorcycle accidents. *Accid Anal Prev* 1979; 11: 199–207.
- Evans L. Traffic safety. Bloomfield hills, MI: Science Serving Society. 2004: 444 p.
- Subramanian R. Alcohol involvement in fatal motor vehicle traffic crashes. NHTSA, Washington DC, 2003.
- MAIDS research teams, management & expert group. 2009. In- depth investigations of accidents involving powered two wheelers - final report 2.0.ACEM, Brussels, 2009. 179 p.
- Larsen CF, Hardt-Mansen M. Fatal motorcycle accidents in the county of Funen (Denmark). *Forensic Sci Int* 1988; 38(1–2): 93–99.
- Kasantikul V, Ouellet JV, Smith T, Sirathranont J, Panichabhongse V. The role of alcohol in Thailand motorcycle crashes. *Accid Anal Prev* 2005; 37(2): 357–366.
- Colburn N, Meyer RD, Wrigley M, Bradley EL. Should motorcycles be operated within the legal alcohol limits for automobiles? *J Trauma* 1993; 35(2): 183–186.
- Creaser JI, Ward NJ, Rakauskas ME, Shankwitz C, Boer ER. Effect of alcohol impairment on motorcycle riding skills. *Accid Anal Prev* 2009; 41: 906–913.
- Alicioglu B, Yalniz E, Eskin D, Yilmaz B. Injuries associated with motorcycle accident. *Acta Orthop Traumatol Turc* 2008; 42: 106–111.
- Nunn S. Death by motorcycle: Background, Behavioral, and Situational Collisions. *J Forensic Sci* 2011; 56(2): 429–437.
- Zargar M, Khaji A, Karbakhsh M. Pattern of motorcycle-related injuries in Teheran, 1990 to 2000: a study in 6 hospitals. *East Mediterr Health J* 2006; 12: 81–87.
- ETCS, 2007. Social and economic consequences of road traffic injury in Europe. European transport safety council. Rue du Cornet 22, B-1040 Brussels.
- Ankarath S, Giannoudis PV, Barlow I, Bellamy MC, Matthews SJ, Smith RM. Injury patterns associated with mortality following motorcycle crashes. *Injury* 2002; 33: 473–477.
- Roohi SA, Naicker AS, Shukur MH, Mohammad AR. Spinal injuries in a level-one trauma centre: a demographic study. *Med J Malays* 2006; 61 (Suppl. A): 30–35.
- Robertson A, Giannoudis PV, Branfoot T, Barlow I, Matthews SJ, Smith RM. Spinal injuries in motorcycle crashes: patterns and outcome. *J Trauma* 2002; 53: 5–8.
- Begg DJ, Langley JD, Reeder AI. Motorcycle

- crashes in New Zealand resulting in death and hospitalisation. I. Introduction methods and overview. *Accid Anal Prev* 1994; 26(2): 157–164.
30. Braddock M, Schwartz R, Lapidus G, Banco L, Jacobs L. A population-based study of motorcycle injuries and costs. *Ann Emerg Med* 1992; 21: 273–278.
 31. Kasantikul V, Ouellet JV, Smith TA. Head and neck injuries in fatal motor-cycle collisions as determined by detailed autopsy. *Traffic Inj Prev* 2002; 4(3): 255–262.
 32. Pang TY, Radin Umar RS, et al. Accident characteristics of injured motorcyclists in Malaysia. *Med J Malays* 2000; 55(1): 45–50.
 33. Qudus MA, Noland RB, Chin HC. An analysis of motorcycle injury and vehicle damage severity using ordered probit models. *J Saf Res* 2002; 33(4): 445–462.
 34. Zambon F, Hasselberg M. Factors affecting the severity of injuries among young motorcyclists - a Swedish nationwide cohort study. *Traffic Inj Prev* 2006; 7: 143–149.
 35. Lee J, Mannering F. Impact of roadside features on the frequency and severity of run-off-roadway accidents: an empirical analysis. *Accid Anal Prev* 2002; 34(2): 149–161.
 36. Abdel-Aty M. Analysis of driver injury severity levels at multiple locations using ordered probit models. *J Saf Res* 2003; 34: 597–603.
 37. Holdridge JM, Shankar VN, Ulfarsson GF. The crash severity impacts of fixed roadside objects. *J Saf Res* 2005; 36: 139–147.
 38. Gibson T, Benetatos E. Motorcycles and Crash Barriers. Motorcycle Council of New South Wales, Australia; 2000.
 39. Lin MR, Chang SH, Huang W, Hwang HF, Pai L. Factors associated with severity of motorcycle injuries among young adult riders. *Ann Emerg Med* 2003; 41: 783–791.
 40. Tung SH, Wong SV, Law TH, Radin Umar RS. Crashes with roadside objects along motorcycle lanes in Malaysia. *Int J Crashworthiness* 2008; 13(2): 205–210.
 41. Gabler HC. The risk of fatality in motorcycle crashes with roadside barriers. Proceedings of the Twentieth International Conference on Enhanced Safety of Vehicles, 2007, Lyons, France, June, Paper No. 07-L 0474.
 42. Berg FA, Rücker P, Gärtner M, König J, Grzebieta R, Zou R. Motorcycle impacts into roadside barriers - real world accident studies, crash test and simulations carried out in Germany and Austria. Proceedings of the 19th International technical conference on the enhanced safety of vehicles; 2005 Jun 6-9; Washington DC, USA. Available at: www.nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/pdf/esv/esv20/07-0474-O.pdf (accessed February 1, 2010).
 43. Daniello A, Gabler HC. Fatality risk in motorcycle collisions with roadside objects in the United States. *Accid Anal Prev* 2011; 43(3): 116–1170.
 44. Kupferschmid JP, Weaver ML, Ravess JJ, Diamond DL. Thoracic spine injuries in victims of motorcycle accidents. *J Trauma* 1989; 29(5): 593–596.
 45. Zulkippli ZH, Rahmat AMA, Faudzi SAM, Paiman NF, Wong SV, Hassan A. Motorcycle-related spinal injury: Crash characteristics. *Accid Anal Prev* 2012, doi:10.1016/j.aap.2011.12.011. In press.
 46. Simpson DA, Blumbergs PC, Cooter RD, Kilminster M, McLean AJ, Scott G. Pontomedullary tears and other gross brainstem injuries after vehicular accidents. *J Trauma* 1989; 29(11): 1519–1525.
 47. Krantz KPG. Head and neck injuries to motorcycle and moped riders-with special regard to the effect of protective helmets. *Injury* 1985; 16(4): 253–258.
 48. Moskal A, Martin JL, Laumon B. Helmet use and the risk of neck or cervical spine injury among users of motorized two-wheel vehicles. *Inj Prev* 2008; 14(4): 238–244.
 49. O'Connor PJ. Motorcycle helmets and spinal cord injury: helmet usage and type. *Traffic Inj Prev* 2005; 6: 60–66.
 50. Sauter C, Zhu S, Allen S, Hargarten S, Layde PM. Increased risk of death or disability in un-helmeted Wisconsin motorcyclists. *Wis Med J* 2005; 104(2): 39–44.
 51. Goslar PW, Crawford NR, Petersen SR, Wilson JR, Harrington T. Helmet use and associated spinal fractures in motorcycle crash victims. *J Trauma* 2008; 64: 190–196.
 52. Hitosugi M, Takatsu A, Shigeta A. Injuries of Motorcyclists and Bicyclists Examined at Autopsy. *Am J Forensic Med Pathol* 1999; 20(3): 251–255.
 53. Shiono H, Akane A, Matsubara K, Tanabe K, Takahashi S. Identification of the driver in two-rider motorcycle accidents. Inguinal contusion laceration as an indication of the driver. *Am J Forensic Med Pathol* 1990; 11(3): 190–192.
 54. Kurihara K, Kuroda N, Murai T, Yanagida J. Injuries of motorcycle riders. (1) fuel tank injury. *Res Pract Forens Med* 1988; 31: 275–279.
 55. Ihama Y, Fuke Ch, Miyazaki T. A two-rider motorcycle accident involving injuries around groin area in both the driver and the passenger. *Legal medicine* 2007; 9: 274–277.
 56. Ječmenica DS, Alempijević DM, Pavlekić S, Aleksanrić BV. Traumatic testicular displacement in motorcycle drivers. *J forensic Sci* 2011; 56(2): 541–543.
 57. Hejna P, Šafr M, Zátoková L. Reconstruction of devastating head injuries: a useful method in forensic pathology. *Int J Legal Med* 2011; 125(4): 587–590.
 58. Di Maio VJ, Di Maio D. Forensic Pathology, second edition, Washington, D.C.: CRC Press. 2001. 565 p.
 59. Brandimarti F, Giacomini I, Fraternale B, Giorgetti R, Tagliabracchi A. Massive Lesions Owing to Motorcyclist Impact Against Guardrail Posts: Analysis of Two Cases and Safety Considerations. *J Forensic Sci* 2011; 56(2): 544–546.
 60. Ihama Y, Miyazaki T, Fuke Ch, Niki H, Maehira T. Complete decapitation of a motorcycle driver due to a roadblock chain. *Int J Legal Med* 2008; 122: 511–515.
 61. Schneider IV WH, Savolainen PT, Boxel D, Beverley R. Examination of factors determining fault in two-vehicle motorcycle crashes. *Accid Anal Prev* 2012; 45: 669–676.
 62. Byard RW. Increasing Body Weight of Motorcycle riders (Letter to the Editor). *J Forensic Sci* 2011; 56(6): 1661.
 63. Rosenfeld H, Tsokos M, Byard RW. The association between body mass index and pulmonary thromboembolism in an autopsy population. *J Forensic Sci*. In press (2012).
 64. McLester J, St Pierre P. Linear motion of the system. Applied biomechanics: concepts and connection. Belmont, CA: Cengage Learning, 2008; 153.
 65. Savolainen P, Mannering F. Probabilistic models of motorcyclists injury severities in single- and multi-vehicle crashes. *Accid Anal Prev* 2007; 39(5): 955–963.
 66. Mannering FL, Grodsky LL. Statistical analysis of motorcyclists perceived accident risk. *Accid Anal Prev* 2004; 27(1): 213–222.