



INTRODUCTION

Migrant detention in Greece has drawn increasing concern regarding the overall health of detainees. Traumatic injuries within this population are common, often linked to systemic factors such as overcrowding, poor hygiene, limited access to timely medical care. This study explores the epidemiology, management, and outcomes of traumas among detained migrants in Greece and assesses the causes, types, and treatment pathways of traumatic injuries among migrants in detention facilities, emphasizing the impact of interpersonal violence, self-harm, and psychosocial vulnerabilities on injury patterns.

RESULTS

The analysis revealed that a significant portion of injuries stem from interpersonal violence, with 42% of cases being self-inflicted and 48% involving individuals with a history of psychiatric disorders or substance abuse. Upper and lower limb injuries were the most common, with the hand and wrist being particularly vulnerable (55%).

RESULTS

A considerable number of cases (57%) were managed non-surgically, with some injuries, particularly those to the thigh and buttocks, requiring more complex surgical interventions, including flaps and skin grafts in 5% of cases. Complications such as infections were noted in a small percentage of cases (1.5% for hand surgeries, 2% for leg surgeries), often exacerbated by poor hygiene and living conditions in detention centers. Additionally, the phenomenon of detainees swallowing foreign objects and engaging in self-harm as a form of protest or to signal their precarious legal status was observed.

DISCUSSION-CONCLUSION

This study underscores the critical role of first responders and health professionals in detention centers in managing acute trauma cases, which are often referred for further treatment in specialized hospitals. The findings highlight the need for improved preventive measures, better living conditions, and a multidisciplinary approach to care. The paper calls for further research to better understand injury patterns and to develop culturally sensitive treatment protocols for detained migrants.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

A retrospective analysis was conducted on 228 cases presented at Greek NHS hospitals over a two-year period. The cases involved detainees from prisons, pre-removal centers, and police stations. Data were collected on injury type, anatomical location, etiology, treatment modality, and postoperative outcomes. Additional information on psychiatric comorbidities and substance use history was recorded.

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THE GLOBAL PRISON POPULATION IS INCREASING.

