

THE PATTERN OF MAXILLO-FACIAL FRACTURES**N. A. de S. Amaratunga***(Dental School, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya)*

The pattern of facial fractures may change in a changing society. This study attempts to find out how the pattern may have changed over the last decade.

Hospital records and radiography of 569 patients treated at General Hospital, Kandy, during the period January 1970 to April 1981 were studied as regards age, sex, occupation, fracture site and type, method of treatment and period of hospitalization.

Results showed that the overall incidence had risen by 23%, motor traffic accidents as a cause had increased by 20% and assaults by 10%. A change in the distribution of site was noticed, midfacial fractures constituting 17% of the total in 1980 as compared to 9% in 1970. More complex methods of treatment and longer periods of hospitalization had become necessary.

The association between the pattern of facial fractures and changes in our society is discussed.