

2021-12

# Re: E-scooter injuries referred to the oral and maxillofacial surgical service at Christchurch Hospital: a retrospective observational study and cost analysis of 17 months of data

Lin, Yen Ming

<http://hdl.handle.net/10026.1/20308>

---

10.1016/j.bjoms.2021.06.012

British Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Elsevier BV

---

*All content in PEARL is protected by copyright law. Author manuscripts are made available in accordance with publisher policies. Please cite only the published version using the details provided on the item record or document. In the absence of an open licence (e.g. Creative Commons), permissions for further reuse of content should be sought from the publisher or author.*

**Re: E-scooter injuries referred to the oral and maxillofacial surgical service at Christchurch Hospital: a retrospective observational study and cost analysis of 17-months of data**

Y. Lin<sup>1</sup>, B. Collard<sup>2</sup>

**1. Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department, University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust, Plymouth, PL6 8DH, United Kingdom**

**2. Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department, Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, Torquay, TQ2 7AA, United Kingdom**

Sir, we read with interest the recent article regarding the prevalence of e-scooter related injuries that presented to the oral and maxillofacial surgical team in New Zealand by Smit et al. <sup>1</sup> The article has highlighted the increasing problem in e-scooter related accidents currently especially in this modern day and age.

We work in the South West region of the United Kingdom at a level 1 major trauma centre. Our experience is that we have had 13 e-scooter related injuries present at the Accident and Emergency department in the last 5 years since 2016. This is a growing problem and has the potential to cause an impact on the cost-effectiveness and resources allocated by the National Health Service.

The current national guidelines regarding e-scooter use in the United Kingdom is that they are only allowed for personal use on private land.<sup>2</sup> It is still illegal to use them on public roads and spaces allocated for pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders. The government, however, is currently running a series of e-scooter trials in about 32 counties. These are only allowed at a maximum speed of 15.5mph and one must have a category Q entitlement on their driving license to be allowed to rent one.

E-scooters should also be insured by the rental operator, however they do not need to be registered or pay vehicle excise duty. A cycle helmet and fluorescent clothing are recommended, however, this is currently not a legal requirement. They should also only be used by one person at a time, not be used to tow anything, and should not have anything hanging on the handlebars. Mobile phones are not allowed to be used during the use of an e-scooter, and any navigation information should be set up prior to setting off. One must also not ride an e-scooter while intoxicated or drunk as they can be prosecuted under drinking or drug driving laws which is a punishable offence. <sup>3</sup>

We believe that extra caution and care should be taken into consideration with clear-cut recommendations to ensure the safety of the growing sport and vehicle use of e-scooters before their approval for public use as there is a potential to cause a financial strain on the provision of healthcare services.

**Conflict of interest**

We have no conflicts of interest.

**Ethics statement/conformation of patients' permission**

Not required.

**References**

1. R.B. Smit, D.O. Graham, J. Erasmus. E-scooter injuries referred to the oral and maxillofacial surgical service at Christchurch Hospital: a retrospective observational study and cost analysis of 17-months of data. *Br J Oral Maxillofac Surg* **59** (2021), pp. 439-444.

2. Department for Transport. Powered transporters. Updated 13 July 2020. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/powered-transporters/information-sheet-guidance-on-powered-transporters> (Accessed 11 May 2021).
3. Department for Transport. E-scooter trials: guidance for users. Updated 19 April 2021. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/e-scooter-trials-guidance-for-users> (Accessed 11 May 2021).