Introduction to orthopaedics in ice hockey





PD Dr med Jacques Menetrey

Unité d'Orthopédie et Traumatologie du Sport (UOTS)

Service de chirurgie orthopédique et traumatologie de l'appareil moteur

University Hospital of Geneva,



Geneva Switzerland





Team physician tasks

- Pre-participation examination
- Game coverage
- Injury diagnosis
- First class treatment
- Implementation of injury prevention program

Pre-participation examination

Clinical examination Flexibility Spine Posture Former injuries Joint laxities Muscle dysbalance Groin status

Pre-participation examination

Functional testing
 Strength
 Power
 Core stability

Ice hockey features

- Fastest team sport:
- Players skating up to 60 km/h
- Puck moving up to 160 km/h
- Agressive contact between players
- Rigid obstacles (boards, goalposts)
- Solid surface

Filk et al Am J Sports Med 2005

Leading to high energy trauma and severe injuries despite protective equipments





- All studies show more injuries in game than in practice (6 to 8 folds more frequent)
- No significant difference between forwards and defensemen injury rate

Flik et al *Am J Sports Med* 2005 Jorgensen et al *Br J Sports Med* 1986 Injuries rate

- Incidence rate:
 - 10/1000 athletes-exposure: around 15 in game, 2 in practice

Flik et al *Am J Sports Med* 2005 Agel et al *J Athl Train* 2007

5/1000 hours/players-: 40 to 80 in game,
2 in practice

Tegner & Lorentzon *Br J Sports Med* 1981 Jorgensen et al *Br J Sports Med* 1986 Petersson et al *Br J Sports Med* 1993



Incidence tracks: (1500m)

Incidence sprint:

5.8 lesions/ 1000 h

5.6 lesions/1000 h

Incidence marathon: 2.5 lesions/1000 h

Lysholm et al Am J Sports Med 1987



Incidence handball:

Incidence hockey:

Incidence football:

8.2 lesions/1000 h

4.7 lésions/1000 h

4.1 lesions/1000 h

Jorgensen et al British J Sports Med 1987

Injuries location

Locations varie among studies but the 3 most frequent part of the injured body (with close rate around 25% each) are:

- Head/face (most frequent when no visors or face guards)
- Knee
- Shoulder

Flik et al *Am J Sports Med* 2005 Agel et al *J Athl Train* 2007

Injuries type

 Contusions are the most frequent type of injuries but in general minor

> Tegner & Lorentzon *Br J Sports Med* 1981 Jorgensen et al *Br J Sports Med* 1986 Petersson et al *Br J Sports Med* 1993

- Top 3 diagnosis leading to time loss:
 - Knee internal derangement
 - Acromioclavicular injury
 - Concussion

Flik et al *Am J Sports Med* 2005 Agel et al *J Athl Train* 2007 Injuries causes

Contact between players (up to 50%)
 Contact with boards (20-30%)
 Others (puck, skate, goalpost)

• Overuse is responsible for 10 to 15% of all injuries

Injuries							
	Forwards	Defensemen	Goalies	Total	Only Imports		
Injuries	58	29	4	91	19		
Injuries/ player	3.87	3.63	2.00	3.64	3.8		

No significant difference between forwards and defensemen

Playing hours					
Training hours (average 6h/week) Game hours (2h/game)		Total hours	Injury incidence (1000 hours/ players)	Injury incidence (1000AE)	
186	128	314	11,6	14,5	





Injuries Localization



Take home message

Ice hockey was played by Native Americans as long ago as the 1600s, but the first recorded match in its modern form took place in Montreal in 1875. Today, there are more than 300,000 ice bockey players in North America. It is an extremely fast and tough sport demanding high

... ice hockey can be made a much safer sport only by better enforcement of the rules, and by coaches, players, and spectators not tolerating or promoting intentional violence

violence during a game, and by officials who do not enforce the rules strictly. Ice hockey is regarded by many sports medicine experts to be the most dangerous sport in the USA for non-fatal catastrophic injuries (i.e. injuries that are severely incapacitating). Statistics show that 2.55 non-fatal catastrophic injuries occur per 100 000 player hours in ice hockey, compared with 0.68 per 100 000 player hours for American Football. In recent years there has been an alarming increase in the number of cervical spine injuries. Some neck injuries resulted from players skating head first into the boards or another player, but most resulted from illegal checking from behind. Although the risk of injury can be reduced by strengthening neck muscles, ice hockey can be made a much safer sport only by better enforcement of the rules, and by <u>coaches</u>, players, and spectators not tolerating or promoting intentional violence. Ice hockey is an exciting game demanding high levels of skill and speed; these are the features to emphasize, not violence.

1st World Congress on Sports Injury Prevention Oslo 2005



- 1) Flik K, Lyman S, Marx RG: American collegiate men'ice hockey: an analysis of injuries. Am J Sports Med 2005 Feb;33(2):183-7
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- Only few studies about injuries (less than 10, from Sweden and USA)
- Mostly about junior and elite team but very few studies about professional team
- Results are difficult to compare:
 - Many different classification and details about injuries type/localisation
 - Different injuries rate(athlete exposure, players/1000 hours)

Team				Games				
Forwards	Defense- ments	Goalies	Total	Imports	Friendly	Regular Season	Playoff	Total
15	8	2	25	5	15	44	5	64

Playing hours						
Training hours (average 6h/week) Hours game (2h/match)		Hours total (1000 hours/ players)		Injury incidence (1000AE)		
186	128	314	11,8	14,56		