28 cases.

In conclusion, the head and maxillo-facial injury should be treated in co-operation with department of neurosurgery, ophthalmology and reconstructive surgery.

17. Some Aspects of Head Injuries in the Elderly

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The population of elderly persons has been increasing rapidly in our country, therefore the cases of head injuries to this group has been increasing gradually. In general, as the pathological or physical condition changes in a person because of old age, one may notice sickness patterns which are peculiar to the aged in symptom, treatment and prognosis after head injury.

From January 1960 to September 1965, 359 cases were admitted in our department due to head injuries, in which 59 were patients who were 50 years of age or more. The mortality was 11.2% in the entire number of patients, whereas the mortality of patients who were 50 years old or more was 21.7%.

Head injuries of the aged tend to bring about lung complications. As consciousness becomes dulled in course of head injury, one may find that this condition is not caused by intracranial hematoma but, rather, due to latent lung complications.

A light head injury to an aged person may be accompanied by periods of disturbance of consciousness and mental emotional disorder with subsequent lucid interval in some cases. The use of the activator of cell metabolism such as Cytochrome C, ATP, Vitamin and etc. in these cases has shown spectacular efficacy. For the elderly, we think, one must apply the activating therapy of cell metabolism at the early period of head injuries.