



Surgeon warning on children's playground equipment

Thursday 30 July, 2015

Injuries from children's playground equipment are well documented and the latest edition of the *ANZ Journal of Surgery* contains a warning that severe injury can result when children do not use monkey-bars appropriately.

A letter to the editor in the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) publication shows that more than half of monkey-bar related injuries recorded in an audit of 211 fracture admissions to a Melbourne hospital were caused from children either attempting to skip a rung or from sitting or standing on top of a monkey bar and falling.

Monkey-bar injuries accounted for almost one-fifth of the paediatric fracture admissions, with more than half of those suffering a severe injury.

Co-author of the letter and orthopaedic trainee Dr Sina Babazadeh said that the study included a retrospective audit of all fractures requiring admission over a 24-month period, with all patients attending primary school or younger, from ages one to 13.

"Injuries like these can result in significant stress to a child, parent and the health system, and can potentially have long standing repercussions." Dr Babazadeh said.

"Monkey-bar and play equipment falls can result in injuries that are significantly more likely to require a trip to the operating theatre." he said.

"Parents and schools should be aware of the dangers when children attempt to skip rungs or use the equipment inappropriately, however, understandably it is difficult to stop them doing so."

The ANZ Journal of Surgery, published by Wiley-Blackwell, is the pre-eminent surgical journal published in Australia, New Zealand and the South-East Asian region for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. The Journal is dedicated to the promotion of outstanding surgical practice, and research of contemporary and international interest.



About the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS)

RACS is the leading advocate for surgical standards, professionalism and surgical education in Australia and New Zealand. The College is a not-for-profit organisation that represents more than 7000 surgeons and 1300 surgical trainees and International Medical Graduates. RACS also supports healthcare and surgical education in the Asia-Pacific region and is a substantial funder of surgical research. There are nine surgical specialties in Australasia being: Cardiothoracic surgery, General surgery, Neurosurgery, Orthopaedic surgery, Otolaryngology Head-and-Neck surgery, Paediatric surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive surgery, Urology and Vascular surgery.

www.surgeons.org

**Media inquiries: Bridget Hooper, Senior Communications Officer
+61 437 008 891 or +61 3 9276 7430**