

Injury related to elastic luggage straps

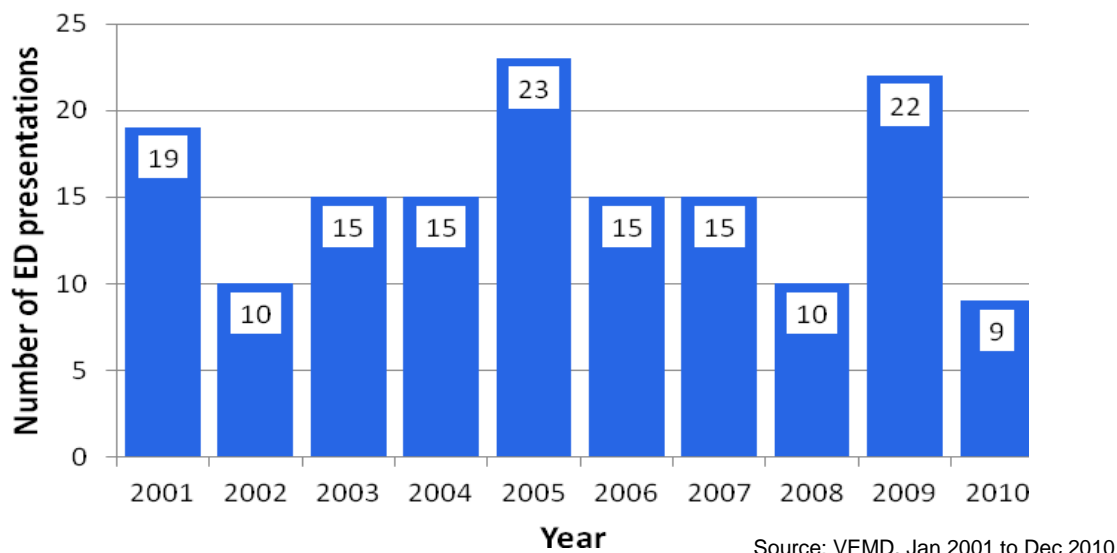
Data supplied by the Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit, Monash Injury Research Institute.

Data were selected from the Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset (VEMD) which is collected from the 38 Victorian hospitals with a 24-hour emergency service. Data quality varies across the hospitals so the counts reported here are underestimates.

Data source: Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset (VEMD) January 2001 – December 2010 (10 years)
Search Strategy: Injuries associated with elastic luggage strap were identified by searching the VEMD for cases using the text term "elastic", "bungy", "octopus", "rubber", "spider" and "strap", "band", "cord", "rope" and "tie" with spelling variations, contained in the 250 character 'Description of Injury Event' field. Selected cases were checked and any irrelevant cases were excluded from the dataset prior to analysis.

Frequency: In the 10 years between January 1, 2001 and December 31, 2010 there were 153 elastic luggage strap-related injury emergency department (ED) presentations, an average of 15 cases per year.

Figure 1 ED presentations for injury related to elastic luggage straps by year 2001-2010 (n=153)



Gender: Males (88%) presented much more frequently than females (12%).

Age: There was no obvious pattern to injury related to age. All ages were affected.

Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit

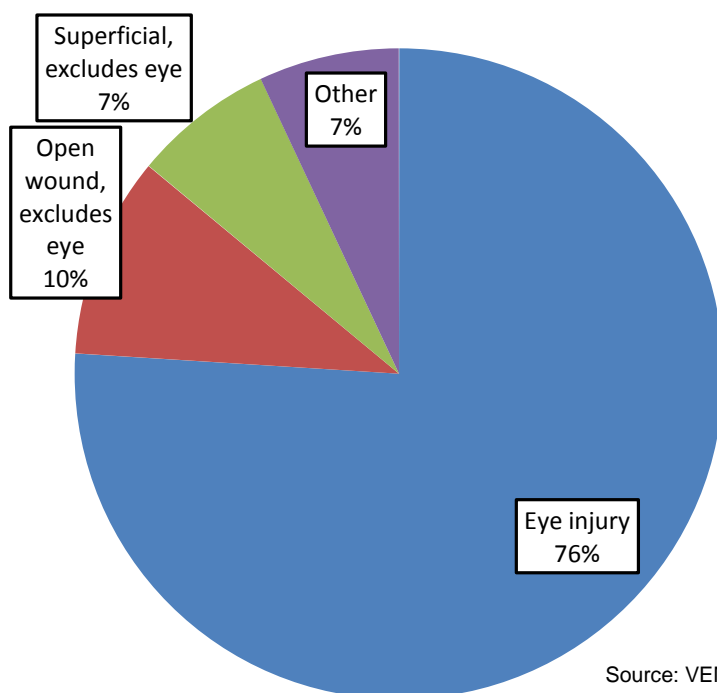
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Sample of case narratives:

- *Tying down a load at friend's business when an octopus strap flicked back onto right eye.*
- *In driveway securing furniture on roof rack caused by bungy tie hook sprung back [eye injury]*
- *Eye injury. Octopus strap flicked back breaking patient's glasses. Glass in right eye.*
- *Was fastening stuff on trailer with octopus strap. Hit on eye by hook.*

Injury type: The most commonly injury type was eye injury (76%).

Figure 3 ED presentation for injury related to elastic luggage straps by type of injury (n=153)



Source: VEMD, Jan 2001 to Dec 2010

Departure status: Most ED presentations were discharged to home (80%) with 18% either admitted to hospital or referred for further treatment.

Safety tips:

- Wear goggles
- Use rope instead of elastic luggage straps when securing a load.
- Do not use as a toy or play with in any way.

Further information:

- <http://www.monash.edu.au/miri/research/research-areas/home-sport-and-leisure-safety/visu/hazard/haz43.pdf>
- <http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/974367>