

# Setting the Goals in the Management of Mutilated Injuries of the Hand—Impressions Based on the Ganga Hospital Experience



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## KEYWORDS

- Mutilated hand injuries management • Transfer of injured patients • Primary care of hand injuries
- Accessibility of quality health care • Cost of hand injury care

## KEY POINTS

- Mutilated upper limb injuries if not treated appropriately end up in amputation or with severe disability to the individual.
- Making quality care available at the time of need is the key to success. It is desirable to set the following goals in the management of these injuries to achieve consistent good outcomes:
  - Goal 1: mutilated hand injuries must reach the appropriate center for their primary care.
  - Goal 2: experienced surgeons must be available at the time of primary decision making.
  - Goal 3: quality care must be made accessible to all patients with mutilated hand injuries irrespective of the socioeconomic status.
  - Goal 4: cost containment measures must be practiced to provide affordable services in the management of mutilated hand injuries.

## INTRODUCTION

Mutilated hand injury is a complex injury wherein there is injury to or loss of multiple tissue components in the upper limb. The bone is almost always fractured and there may be urgent need to vascularize the distal part. Unless treated effectively, there is a risk of amputation or for the individual to spend the rest of his life with severe disability. This possibility has not changed with time. So what has changed? First, there are more data on the outcome of efforts at salvage of these complex injuries to plan the strategy of management.<sup>1–12</sup>

Second, these injuries need high skill levels, and matching the availability of such skilled work force to the need in various parts of the world has become a challenge. Third, the cost of care has become an important issue in all health care systems and provision of cost-effective services has again become a challenge.<sup>13–17</sup>

With industrialization, work-related injuries contributed the greatest number of mutilated hand injuries. The enforcement of safety standards has thankfully reduced the injuries not only in the Western world but also in the developing world.<sup>18</sup>

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