

Fewer cervical spine injuries seen with motorcycle helmet use

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(HealthDay)—Cervical spine injuries occur less frequently among

motorcycle crash victims who were wearing a helmet versus those not wearing a helmet at the time of injury, according to a study published in the June issue of the *Journal of Neurosurgery: Spine*.

Paul S. Page, M.D., from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, and colleagues retrospectively reviewed all cases in which the patient had been involved in a motorcycle crash and was evaluated at a single Level 1 [trauma center](#) in Wisconsin (2010 to 2015). Using biometric, clinical, and imaging data from a trauma registry database, patients were classified based on whether they were wearing (323 individuals) or not wearing helmets (738 individuals) at the time of the accident. The two groups were compared with respect to baseline and functional characteristics.

The researchers found that, on average, helmeted riders had a much lower Injury Severity Score (P injury occurred more frequently in unhelmeted riders ($P = 0.04$). The occurrence of cervical strain, cord contusion, or nerve root injury were similar between the two groups (all $P > 0.05$).

"The study findings reported here confirm the authors' hypothesis that helmet use does not increase the risk of developing a cervical [spine](#) fracture and may provide some protective advantage," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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