**Abstract Background**: Unintentional injuries (UIs) pose a major public health challenge globally. This study was aimed at determining the patterns, causes and short-term treatment outcome of UIs among children admitted at Mbarara Regional Referral Hospital (MRRH).

**Methods**: a hospital based descriptive prospective cohort study was conducted among 185 patients from 1st January 2021/ to 31st May 2021 at The Surgery and Paediatrics Departments. All patients admitted to MRRH with a diagnosis of unintentional injury comprised the study population. Interviewer-administered questionnaires were used to collect the data, and thereafter, patients were followed up for 30 days. These questionnaires were used to record the patterns, causes, and 30-day short-term treatment outcomes, Data was double entered using Epidata 4.2. and exported to Stata 15.1 for data cleaning and analysis, Frequencies and percentages were provided for categorical data and mean with standard deviation (SD) or median (IQR), for continuous data.

**Results**: Of the 185 UIs included in the study, Road Traffic Accident (RTA) and falls were the most common causes accounting for 54.6% and 27% respectively. Most of the Pattern of UI’s were head/neck/face injuries (31.0 %) followed by fractures (30.3%), The majority of UIs occurred among males compared to females (67% vs 33%) and the mean age was 9.3 years (SD = 5.19). Moderate to severe UIs accounted for 29% (ISS scale) and 22.9% (GCS). The patterns of UIs significantly differed by age across cause, occurrence on the face and severity by GCS score. Overall, mortality rate was 9.2%. The mortality in our study was almost doubled in children aged <5 years (14.6%). In relation to cause, poisoning had the highest mortality (21.4%), followed by burns (15.4%) and RTA (9.9%). There was no death seen among children who had animal bites.

**Conclusion**:

Pediatric unintentional injuries constitute a risk to children in Mbarara and its surroundings; the UI-related mortality rate at MRRH in this study is 9.2% and is generally comparable with what was reported in the other studies, with the highest causes of deaths being poisonings and burns, where RTAs and falls were the most common causes of unintentional injuries, there is a need for targeted prevention strategies for these types of injuries.