Neurology & Brain Injury

March 14-15, 2019 | Paris, France

Modifying factors for concussion incidence and severity in the 2013-2017 National Hockey League seasons

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While the body of evidence surrounding injury and concussion rates in the NHL has substantially grown in size over the previous few years, there is still a void pertaining to the in-game effects that could modulate concussion incidence. Our study takes a novel approach to evaluate several "style of play" factors such as home/away perspective, win/loss outcome, points scored, real time length of game, time of season, and player position in modulating concussion rates. Data on concussion incidence for the 2013-2017 National Hockey League seasons was collected utilizing FOX Sports injury tracker. Statistical analysis of several "style of play" factors such as home/away perspective, win/loss outcome, points scored, real time length of game and time of season produced non-significant results pertaining to modulating concussion rate during the 2013-2017 NHL seasons. When evaluating on-ice position we noted offensive players combined to have the highest rate of concussion. The key limitation in our data set is the lack of reliable and publicly available data surrounding concussion incidence in the National Hockey League. Due to this drawback, our data set should be considered as an underreported representation of the total amount of concussions spanning the 2013-2017 seasons.

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