

*I used to be normal until the accident happened" - Case descriptions of health outcomes for ethnic minority patients in Denmark exposed to an accident*

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**Background:** Globally, migrants are often exposed to hazardous working environments, frequently putting their safety and health at risk. Recent studies point to this fact being "critically overlooked in research and policy". A report from a Danish Migrant Health Clinic identified that 11 % of all referred patients reported an occupational injury as the major cause of ill health. The aim of this study was to describe common accidents and the adverse effects in a population of ethnic minority patients.

**Methods:** In the period from March 2018 to November 2021, we included patients in a Danish Migrant Health Clinic at a Danish University Hospital through purposive sampling. The inclusion criteria were qualitative descriptions in the patient history of an accident defined as an inadvertent event that causes significant social, psychological or physical changes in the functional level. We reviewed the health record of the patients, summarized case descriptions and identified dominating themes.

**Results:** We included 61 patients and identified the following themes 1) occupational accidents 2) psychological and cognitive consequences 3) racism and discrimination 4) occupational trauma of interpreters and 5) the social and economic detour following an accident. Accidents lead to chronic pain conditions, primary PTSD or re-traumatization activating previous trauma, cognitive challenges as loss of language skills, as well as challenges in work retention. Patients with occupational accidents were rarely informed about legal and insurance rights.

**Conclusion:** An accident may initiate, enhance or accelerate poor health and a psychosocial detour for ethnic minority patients. Accidents can lead to loss of second language and connection to the labor market. This study underscores a need for enhanced focus on accidents and the health outcomes and social consequences in this patient group. Workers unions should more proactively inform about legal and insurance rights. Awareness on this subject within health professionals, unions and social workers could create a foundation for better prevention interventions.