



Michael Schumacher Statement 30.12.13

As ever when someone is seriously injured whilst skiing or snowboarding, I was deeply saddened and concerned to hear of the accident involving Michael Schumacher in France. Whilst I am not in possession of all of the facts, it appears that he has sustained serious head injuries as a result of a collision whilst skiing off piste. It is reported that he was wearing a helmet.

Accidents of this nature are, thankfully, rare events amongst skiers and snowboarders although of course they usually receive substantial media attention. As with any recreational activity however, it is impossible to completely remove all elements of risk when participating in snow sports. The absolute risk of an injury whilst skiing or snowboarding recreationally remains very low, in the order of 2-4 injuries per 1000 days spent on the slopes. The vast majority of people will ski or board all their lives without ever sustaining a significant injury.

Whilst they can never provide complete protection in all accident situations, I have no doubt that his use of a helmet will have substantially attenuated the injuries sustained. My colleagues and I in the snow sports medicine fraternity continue to recommend that all skiers and snowboarders wear an appropriately sized and designed helmet on the slopes.

Medical care both on the slopes and in hospital in France is amongst the finest in the world and Michael will no doubt be receiving the very best care in Grenoble. I wish him a speedy and complete recovery from his injuries and my thoughts and prayers are with Michael and his family at this time.

Dr Mike Langran
www.ski-injury.com

Note to editors

I am currently in Australia at present and unable to accept or receive telephone calls. You may use the above statement and/or information contained on my website for any articles as long as you quote the website as the source of your information.