



SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This study was carried out on 76 patients attending the Chest Department , Benha University Hospital , Zagazig University . They were diagnosed as having bronchial asthma .

Ventilatory functions and intradermal skin testing were performed for all these patients . Ten allergens were used in skin testing which were prepared in the Microbiology and Immunology Department , Benha Faculty of Medicine , Zagazig University . These allergens were house dust , hay dust , cotton dust , pollen , mixed fungi , wool , goat hair , rabbit hair , dog hair and mixed feathers .

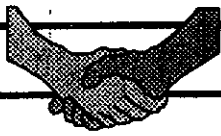
Out of these 76 patients 33 were atopic and 43 were non atopic with equal sex proportion .

It was found that the most common allergen in the locality was house dust (28 cases) then pollen (11 cases) then hay and cotton dust (10 cases) .

25 cases having positive skin test and abnormal ventilatory functions were subjected to testing for specific IgE of house dust by enzyme linked allergosorbent assay (EAST) . Out of them 23 cases were positive with different grades .

By comparing the grades of intradermal skin test to house dust and specific IgE level to the same allergen . It was found that they were closely related to each other .

So , it was concluded that skin testing is sensitive test and is a cheap one , that can be used for large number of patients and that EAST is also sensitive and specific test but has the disadvantage of being expensive , so must be used only for diagnosis of cases of suspected allergy and having negative skin testing .



RECOMMENDATION

Skin tests are useful as a screening test of a large number of patients. It is inexpensive and gives immediate results . So, it is not recommended for diagnosis of patients having skin problems as urticaria and burns .

Enzyme Allergosorbent test (EAST) is recommended in diagnosis of allergy in :

- 1- Patients with clinical picture highly suspected of allergy and giving negative skin tests to one reason or another .
- 2- Patients in which skin tests are not possible to perform as patients with urticaria . .

The only disadvantage of the EAST method that it has expensive price .

Treatment of allergy consists essentially of :

- 1- Avoidance of source of allergy which may be impossible .
- 2- Medical treatment which is the most important step of the treatment .
- 3- Immunotherapy which has the hazard of developing adverse effects and even anaphylaxis , so it is recommended only for patients having severe allergy and not responding to various drug therapy .