

Summary

Respiratory diseases are considered from the most frequent diseases during childhood and are responsible for great morbidity and mortality especially in young children.

In our study, we try to discover the frequency of respiratory diseases (upper RTIs, lower RTIs and asthma) in children aged 2- 12 years in South Sinai Governorate.

Our study was conducted on 720 patients from the out patient clinic, Dahab Hospital in South Sinai. The number of male cases was 385(53.48%) and female cases 335 (46.52%)

The patients complaining of upper RTIs were 528, males 271 and females 257. The patients suffering from asthma, bronchitis and pneumonia were 41, 125 and 26 respectively.

In our study, the prevalence of asthma in South Sinai Governorate was 5.69 %. Asthmatic patients were 41, males 25 (61 %) and females 16 (39 %). The male: female ratio was 1.56: 1.

According to the age of onset in asthmatic patients in our study we notice that 8 children (19.5%) started their asthma early in life since birth, 20 children (48.8%) below 1 year of age, 7 children (17%) started their asthma in 1-3 years age, 4 children (9.8%) started their asthma in 3-6 years age and the rest 2 children started their asthma above 6 years.

In our study, the number of children suffering from asthma was 41 children, 14 children (34%) gave positive family history for atopy (Non significant difference).

As for the possible precipitating factors responsible for precipitation of asthmatic attacks, our results are shown in (Tables 19, 20, 22):

* Infection is the most predominant factor among cases (18 children representing 43.9% of the asthmatic children), most probably RTIs; Asthmatic children reported rhinitis 18 cases (43.9%), pharyngitis 14 cases (34.14%), tonsillitis 12 cases (29.26%), sinusitis 4 cases (9.75%), otitis media 7 cases (17.07%) and bronchitis 25 cases (60.97% of asthmatic cases) which represent a highly significant association between bronchitis and frequency of attacks of asthma.

*Dust represents a precipitating factor in 14 cases (34.1%) of asthmatic children in our study.

*Exercise and hyperactivity was found to precipitate attacks in 5 cases (12.2%) of asthmatic children

*Emotions and psychological stress represent a precipitating factor in 4 cases (9.8%) of asthmatic children in our study.

In our study, 20 cases (48.78%) of asthmatic children had high frequency of attacks in the winter, 10 cases (24.39%) in the spring and 11 cases (26.83%) in between seasons.

Attacks of asthma are more common at the Night, 30 cases (73.17%) of asthmatics than in the Morning, 11 cases (26.83%) of asthmatics.