

Summary

Asthma is a chronic childhood disorder that affects growth as any other chronic disorder, and is no of the most common chronic disorder that is met with in the out-patient clinic. Chronic childhood disorders have attracted much attention in the recent years. This is due development increasing survivorship of these children as a result of the development of improved methods of treatment and the better evaluation of the disease and their management.

Our aim in the present work is to assess the parameter of psychological development in asthmatic children in one hand to verify the factors that participate to increasing the severity of affection of these parameter on the other hand.

The patients of this study were one hundred chronic asthmatic children. The sample unit was a child in the school age (5 -12 Years) period, attending the clinic of Benha hospital, Benha University, previously diagnosed by clinical and laboratory investigations as having bronchial asthma. Any case not fulfilling these criteria or associated with any other disorder that may affect psychological development, was excluded from the study.

Severe asthmatic patients were under treatment during the study with interrupted courses of corticosteroids.

Fifty healthy children of matched age, sex and socio-economic standards were chosen to serve as controls. They were selected from those attending the specialized clinics of surgery and not complaining of chronic conditions or illness and from the relatives of the asthmatic children, However any necessary investigation needed to confirm the

criteria of selection in this study were carried out. e.g: urine and stool analysis, complete blood count with special reference to absolute eosinophilic count, x-ray examination and serum Ig-E Regarding the effect of bronchial asthma.

The IgE levels were significantly elevated among the patients when compared to their controls. There were relative increase in the eosinophilic count in asthmatic children compared to their control, .

Asthma like any other chronic illness may affect the psychological development of children by influencing their ability to respond to developmental changes and stressful like events. Some, but not all, cases of asthma have psychological factors as a primary cause. Yet even when asthma is originally induced by an infection or allergy, psychological stress can precipitate attacks.

It is generally agreed that both asthma and the medication used to treat it, can adversely affect the patient's family.

This study revealed that, children with asthma were at increased risk for some problems concerning psychological adjustment and depression, for a certain degree of emotional disturbance, Asthmatic children were less extrovert and their participation in the social activity were less compared with their healthy controls. This study also, revealed that sex have significant value in witch internalizing behavior more in females than males especially in age from 5 years to 9 years.

In this study theirs significant correlation between severity of asthma and psychological disorder among asthmatic children.

In our study no relation between psychological disorders and medication of bronchial asthma .

It is recommended to provide a comprehensive, coordinated and continuous services for early assessment, management and rehabilitation of cases with chronic childhood asthma as components of comprehensive program serving the needs of the parents, families and community, proper monitoring and regular follow up of the child's health condition.

Proper management of the disease and its associated physical, social and psychological problems. Minimize exposure of the asthmatic children to different allergens, avoid steroid therapy if it is possible.

Guidance of the child family to the proper care of the diseased child including the proper dietary intake of energy and the inportand nutrients.