

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Our work represent a retrospective study designed to delineate the pattern of rheumatoid arthritis among the Egyptian population.

This study included 1169 patients suffering from rheumatoid arthritis according to the 1987 revised American Rheumatism Association criteria (Arnett et al., 1988).

The results of this study showed the followings:

- * The male to female ratio was 1:3.9.
- * The mean age of examined cases was 42.27 ± 12.24 .
- * The mean age of onset of the disease was 38.82 ± 12.16 .
- * 14.65% of patients showed positive family history of the disease in their families.
- * There was a history of a precipitating factor prior to the disease onset in 5.83% of patients.
- * The small joints of the hands were the commonest joints involved at the disease onset.
- * Deformities were present in 33.45% of patients.
- * Flexion deformity of the elbows was the most common deformity (23.7%) followed by ulnar deviation (8.3%).
- * Extra-articular manifestations were present in 49.17% of patients.
- * Dryness of mouth was the most common form of extra-

articular manifestations (21.73%), followed by dryness of eyes (9.07%), while vasculitis was the least common form of extra-articular manifestations seen in our patients (0.6%).

- * Subcutaneous nodules were found in 7.6% of our patients.
- * Pulmonary, cardiac and neurological complications were not seen in our patients.
- * Most of examined cases (61.01%) had mild disability (Grade II) according to Steinbrocker classification of functional capacity.
- * Rheumatoid factor was positive in 68.75% of patients.
- * There were no significant differences between the seropositive and the seronegative patients as regards frequency of joint involvement, functional capacity or presence of extra-articular manifestations.
- * There were no significant differences between different age groups as regards frequency of joint involvement and functional capacity.
- * The deformities were commoner in patients of younger age group, and the difference in the presence of deformities in different age groups was highly significant.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion we can say that rheumatoid arthritis among the Egyptian population runs a relatively mild

course. The pattern of the disease among the Egyptian population does not differ greatly from the pattern of the disease among other populations except in the absence of serious life threatening systemic manifestations.