

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Mycoplasma pneumoniae is the major cause of respiratory infections in school-aged children. Above the age of 4 years, pneumococcus and mycoplasma pneumoniae are the most frequently identified organisms while viruses are of lesser importance.

The aim of this study is to clarify the incidence of mycoplasma pneumoniae among the Egyptian children with acute respiratory infection.

Forty patients with acute respiratory tract infection, 22 males and 18 females, together with 10 healthy children, 6 males and 4 females as a control group.

All cases were subjected to clinical examination and laboratory investigation for determination of IgG antibodies against Mycoplasma pneumoniae infections by Elisa technique.

The results of this work revealed;

- A high frequency of Mycoplasma pneumoniae infections in both groups, in the control group it was 20 % and in the patients with acute respiratory infections it was 67.5%.

- Significant elevation of the mean IgG antibody titre in patients group when compared to the control group.
- Significant elevation of the mean IgG antibody titre in patients whose duration of illness  $\geq$  8 days than that in patients whose duration of illness  $<$  8 days.
- No significant difference was observed in patients whose duration of illness  $<$  8 days and that of the control group.
- IgG antibody concentration increase by age in the control group.

From our results, it is concluded that the M.P. infection should be always considered in the differential diagnosis of respiratory tract infection in childhood. This may greatly influence the choice of antibiotics treatment.