

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Asthma is the most common chronic disease in childhood, imposing a huge burden on the patient, their family and society. The burden of asthma consists mainly of a decreased quality of life for the patient and their family, as well as high costs for society; the healthcare expenditures for asthma in developed countries are 1-2% of the total healthcare costs (**Sennhause et al., 2005**).

The aim of the study was to assess the prevalence rate of bronchial asthma and other atopic diseases and factors affecting asthma prevalence among school children from 6-15-year-old in Elgharbia Governorate using the ISAAC questionnaire, 1000 students were included in this study (484 were males and 516 were females).

All students were given a written questionnaire including personal data (name, age, sex, residence), history as regards asthma and other atopic diseases, complementary questions for risk factors, were taken into consideration as (history of breast feeding, father education, environmental conditions and exposure to tobacco smoke).

The questionnaire was distributed to the school children to be completed by their parents at home for the primary school children (6-12) years old and for the preparatory school children (12-15) years old, the questionnaire was completed by the student himself.

The results of this questionnaire among studied students (1000 students) showed that: 115 (11.5%) of studied students were asthmatics, 189 (18.9%) of

studied students had allergic rhinitis, 43(4.3%) of studied students had atopic dermatitis, 61 (6.1%) of studied students had allergic conjunctivitis.

The study showed no difference in prevalence of asthma between males and females in both age groups.

It was also found that the percentage of asthma among students of younger age group (6-12) years old more than students of higher age group (12-15) years old but the difference is statistically not significant.

Also the study found a higher percentage of presence of bronchial asthma among students living in urban areas compared to students living in rural areas.

According to the severity of asthma it has been found that the asthmatic students were classified into: Mild intermittent 59 (51.3%) of the total asthmatic students, mild persistent 37 (32.2%) of the total asthmatic students, moderate persistent 10(8.7%) of the total asthmatic students, severe persistent 9 (7.8%) of the total asthmatic students.

Asthma exacerbations occurred in winter season (61.9%), and 42.6% of these exacerbations induced by upper respiratory tract infections.

In the present study, a higher percentage of asthmatic students were exposed to environmental tobacco smoke.

It was found that there is a higher statistical increase of family history of atopy among students with bronchial asthma.

The study found also a higher statistical significant increase of exposure to nearby air pollution and animals among asthmatic students

There was a significant increase of hospital admission among students with severe and moderate asthma than students with mild asthma.

The study found that about 75.7% of asthmatic students did not take regular treatment (controller therapy), which may be due to defective health care and health education.

The current study represent that exercise induced asthma (EIA) occurs in up to 57.4% of asthmatic students.

In addition, the study found that a higher percentage of artificial feeding among cases with asthma compared to students with no asthma and the difference is statistically significant.

The sociodemographic characteristics of studied students showed that there were a higher percentage of asthma patients among the middle socioeconomic group compared to other groups, but the difference was statistically not significant.

In conclusion, the pediatric asthma is considered the most common chronic pediatric chest problem, which has its impact on a child's quality of life. By providing the necessary knowledge and skills, patients and family are encouraged to effectively manage the disease process and improve their quality of life.