

INTRODUCTION

Non-specific vaginitis (N.S.V.) is a misnomer used to identify vaginitis caused by a complex infection process involving, both *Gardnerella vaginalis* (*G.Vaginalis*) organism and anaerobic bacteria. This disease is also called anaerobic vaginosis (A.V) (Blackwell et al , 1983) bacterial vaginosis (Peeters & Piot, 1985 and Hill, 1985) or nonspecific vaginosis (Sweet, 1985).

N.S.V. is one of the most common causes of vaginal discharge at different ages (Fleury, 1981).

The most common anaerobic bacteria accompanying *G. Vaginalis* are peptostreptococci, peptococci and bacteroides (Vontver & Eschenbach, 1981).

The incidence of N.S.V. in gynaecological patients was reported in many countries by many investigators.

Brewer et al (1957), in Chicago, U.S.A. found the incidence of *H. vaginalis* vaginitis was 42.2% in private gynaecological patients complaining of leukorrhoea when they used wet mount preparation and Gram staining for

diagnosis.

Gardner et al (1957), in Texas, U.S.A. found that the incidence of this disease was 19.1% in private clinic white group and was 33.9% in negroes attending the general clinic.

Lewis & O'Brien (1969), in North Carolina, U.S.A. pointed out that the incidence of *Haemophilus vaginalis* organism isolation from gynaecological patients were; the over all incidence was 28.8% the incidence in patients under 40 years of age was 34.4% and in patients over 40 years of age it was 24.2%. In white patients the incidence was 25.7%, in negro patients was 36.7% and in patients with previous hysterectomy it was 24.3%.

Levison et al (1979) in Philadelphia, U.S.A., pointed out that *haemophilus vaginalis* organisms incidence in a symptomatic women was 70.6%, in girls aging from 2 months to 15 years it was 14%, in patients without vaginitis it was 40%, in patients without vaginal discharge it was 30% and in patients with vaginitis it was 41.6%.

Vontver & Eschenbach (1981), in Washington, U.S.A. pointed out that the incidence of nonspecific vaginitis was 40-50% in patients with vaginitis.

In Egypt, little is known about the incidence of this vaginal infection in Egyptian female. In the study of Abdel-Messih & Saleh (1977), in Cairo University and they found that the incidence of haemophilus vaginalis organisms, isolated from patients with leukorrhoea, was 38.3%.

This lack of information stimulated us to undertake this study to know the incidence, symptomatology and clinical signs of nonspecific vaginitis in Egyptian women attending a gynaecological outpatient clinic and complaining of vaginal discharge and/or itching.