

SUMMARY

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The present work was done to estimate the prevalence of rheumatic heart disease among primary school children in Benha city. This study included 2397 pupils, the number of boys was 1273 while that of girls was 1160. They were chosen from different areas of Benha. The age range of the study material was 6 - 12 years.

All cases diagnosed clinically to have rheumatic heart disease were subjected to the following investigations: Hb %, total RBC's count, E.S.R., A.S.O. titre and C.R.P. in addition to determination of their blood groups.

The results revealed the following:

- Out of the total number examined, 11 cases were found to have rheumatic heart disease.
- The 11 cases were divided into 2 groups:
 - Group I cases with rheumatic activity (2 cases).
 - Group II cases without rheumatic activity (9 cases).

- Prevalence rate of rheumatic heart disease was found to be 0.46 %.
- There is a significant prevalence of the disease among females than males.
- Mitral valve is the commonest cardiac valve to be affected.
- There is increased susceptibility to rheumatic heart disease among persons of blood group A than those of blood group O.

CONCLUSION

All available data point to the fact that rheumatic heart disease is a most serious problem in Egypt, although it is a preventable disease, its continued and unabated prevalence is a reflection of the efforts done to improve health care of our population.

Proper control of that problem should be based on improvement of the socio-economic status, adequate prophylactic measures, early diagnosis, proper hospital care, rehabilitation and health education.