SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This work represent study on the epidemiology of the rheumatic diseases among rural Kalyobia Governorate populations. The total population were 4805 (2499 males, 2306 females), out of this number. we found 796 patients suffering from rheumatic of diseases with prevalence rate (16.6%), Female patients were 8.9% and males 7.1% among them 14 cases were complaining of rheumatoid arthritis, 269 cases with osteoarthritis, 172 cases with cervical spondylosis, 100 cases with lumbar spondylosis and 214 cases with soft tissue rheumatism.

All the patients were subjected to full history taking ,clinical, laboratory and radiological examination.

Group I : (patients with RA) :

The subject of this group were 14 suffering from RA according to the revised ARA criteria *(Arnett et al., 1988)*.

The results showed the following:

- The female to male ration 3.2 : 1.

- The peak age of onset was 36.3 ± 10.6 years.

- The small joints of the hands were the commonest joints involved.

- Ulnar deviation of MCPs was the most common deformity followed byZ-deformity of the thumb, swan neck deformity,

boutonnier deformity, fixed flexion of the elbow and lastly halux valgus.

- Subcutaneous nodules were found in 12% of our patients.

- Rheumatoid factor was found in 57% of our patients.

- Juxta-articular osteoporosis present in all cases 100% while peri-articular erosion in 64.2%, joint, space narrowing (50%) followed by periarticular soft tissue swelling (35.7%).

Group II (OA) :

The subjects of this group included 269 patients suffering from OA diagnosed according to clinical data and radiological features described in Atlas of standard radiographs of arthritis *(Kellgren & Lawrence, 1963)*.

The results showed the following :

- Osteoarthritis (OA) was found to be more frequent among overweight population.

- Osteoarthritis is more evident in patients above 50 years old.

- The knee was the joint most often affected while hip and shoulder joint affection were uncommon and mild to moderate effusions were found in the knee of 57 patients (21.2%).

- Heberden's nodes are often used as a marker of so called generalized or nodal osteoarthritis, it was found in 51 women and 45 men.

Group III (Lumbar spondylosis):

This group included 100 patients, diagnosed according to clinical and radiological evidence. There were 72 females and 28 males.

- The mean age of patients was 45 to 55 years old.

- Among lumber spondlyotic patients, backache was recorded by all cases, sciatic pain accompanied by backache 15% of the cases while parasthesia was 43% of the patients.

- There were 9 cases suffering from lumber disc prolapse in our study (6 males and 3 females).

Group IV (cervical spondylosis):

- This group included 172 patients, 136 were females and 36 were males diagnosed according to clinical and radiological evidence.

- Peak age of this group varying from45 to 55 years.

- Among cervical spondylosis patients the main complaint was numbness and parathesia in upper limbs in 85 patients, neck pain in 48 cases then cervical pain and limitation of movement in 39 cases.

- There is about 36 cases, presented with sensory root affect while 13 cases presented with motor root affection.

- Radiology, revered that anterior osteophytes were the most common finding followed by posterior osteophyses and disc space narrowing then lost cervical lordosis.

Group V (soft tissue rheumatism) :

The subject of this group were 214 patients suffering from soft tissue rheumatism.

The females were 66% and males were 33%.

- The mean age was 48.3 ± 15 years.

- The commonest soft tissue rheumatism was ensthesopathy 73%, carpal tunnel syndrome 15% then bursitis 11%.

- There was higher prevalence of soft tissue among the manual workers (58.9%).