SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Rheumatic fever still has an important share in the production of large percentage of cardiac diseases in our country. Although it has almost been eradicated in developed countries.

20 cases of our patients diagnosed clinically as isolated mitral stenosis were selected from the outpatient clinic of 6-October hospital in Cairo, and ten normal subjects as a control were subjected to:-

- Thorough clinical examination.
- Electrocardiographic examination.
- Ecocardiographic examination (M-mode).
- Radiographic examination of chest, P.A. view and lateral view with barium swallow.

The aim of the work is to find out the most reliable non invasive technique of these in assessment of the clinical situation and spotting any complication of mitral stenosis if present.

Several conclusions were arrived to :-

The clinical assessment of the severity of mitral stenosis though sometimes offer an accurate judgement, yet it is not always a reliable measure of the severity of the lesion. This is because :

* The symptoms in mitral stenosis don't always correlate with the severity of mitral obstruction.
* The auscultatory findings characteristic of mitral stenosis are not always constant, some may be completely absent or may show departure from what being expected.

The electrocardiographic findings in mitral stenosis are not specific, and could be seen in other lesions.

The radiographic findings in patients with mitral stenosis are not specific. The evidence of left atrial enlargement is usually present with hemodynamically significant lesions. The atrial size doesn't correlate with the severity of the lesion. The evidence of right ventricular enlargement is always seen when there is significant pulmonary hypertension.

So, from our study we can conclude that for the diagnosis and assessment of severity of the mitral stenosis, degree of calcification leaflet mobility and left ventricular function and for detection of the presence of left atrial thrombosis, echocardiography is the most accurate and simplest non invasive method.