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# A study of aflatoxins and kwashiorkor in benha

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Aflatoxins are common environmental hazards in all the under developed countries of the tropics where they commonly contaminate food. They are toxic to most species of animals and are among the most powerful carcinogenic agents known the liver is the principal target for toxicity. Metabolic derangements caused by aflatoxins include depression of protein and enzyme synthesis, disorder of lipid metabolism and immunological suppression. The aetiology and pathogenesis of kwashiorkor remains somewhat obscure. Similarities in the geographical and climatic prevalence of kwashiorkor and aflatoxins and similarities in the metabolic derangements caused by aflatoxins and those observed in kwashiorkor. (Hendrickse - 1984). The aim of this work was to measure level of aflatoxins and their metabolites in blood and urine of 30 children admitted to Benha University Hospital 20 of whom were suffering from kwashiorkor and 10 well nourished children (control) [bodyweight of over 80% of the Boston 50th centile] admitted for minor intercurrent illness.