

Epidemiology of Bronchial Asthma in different regions of Saudi Arabia

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ABSTRACT :

Studies on prevalence of bronchial asthma and other allergic diseases in children in different regions of Saudi Arabia have continued since 1987. As such various regions of the Kingdom including Eastern, Western and Central Regions and encompassing different climate and geographical zones have been studied. The studies were conducted using an internationally designed questionnaire as well as by diagnostic parameters on cross sectional population of children. The results revealed there were regional variations in the prevalence rate of both diagnosed and highly suspected cases. The definite or diagnosed asthma recorded were as follows: Abha (n=485) 13%, Dammam (n=889) 3.7%, Gizan (n=362) 24.3%, Hofuf (n=923) 14.4%, Hail (n=507) 22.9%, Qassim (n=384) 15.1%, Riyadh (n=988) 10.2% and Jeddah (n=531) 10.4%. Addition of highly suspected case put the figure comparatively much higher. Though the number of children participated also varied from region to region, yet the trend shows that Gizan, a coastal region has the highest prevalence of asthma followed by Hail, an agricultural region. Though the reason(s) of this high prevalence and variation is not the subject of this presentation, nevertheless, these may be attributable to the development and change in life style, etc. in the respective region. We can conclude that the Kingdom is one of the countries with highest prevalence of bronchial asthma in children.

