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ABSTRACTS

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INDOOR ALLERGENS AND ATOPIC RESPONSE IN CHILDREN IN SAUDI ARABIA.

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In order to identify and evaluate indoor allergens in the homes of asthmatic children, a study was conducted involving immunochemical analyses of house dust and exposure of sterile Czapek's Dox Agar plate in the indoor environment of 180 asthma and rhinitis patients and 27 control subjects. The study revealed that 95% homes were positive for allergenic fungi, 70% cockroach protein, and 14% for rodent urine protein. Dust mites species were not found. The general pattern indicated higher antigenic components in asthmatic homes. Aspergillus and Alternaria, constituted 35.8% and 29.7% in asthmatics' environment respectively compared to 22.2% and 18.5% in control homes. Diagnostic skin tests conducted on a group of atopic patients show positive reactivity with commercial antigens. The study indicate a positive correlation between indoor allergens and skin reactivity in atopic subjects in Saudi Arabia.

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