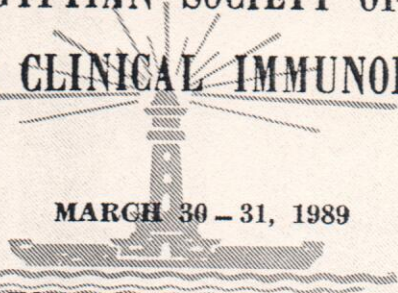


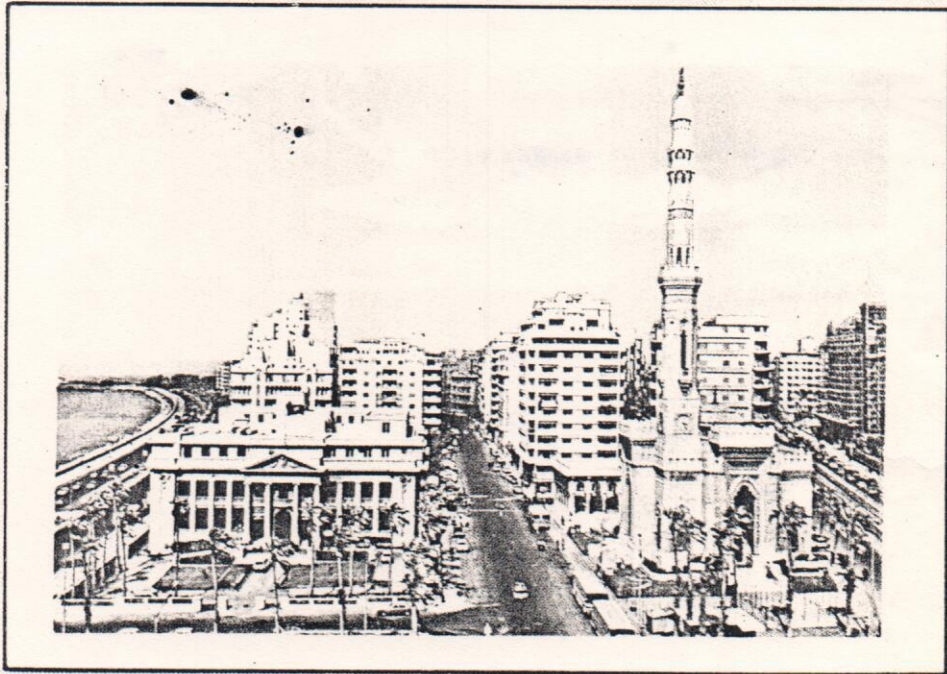
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Abstracts

**EPIDEMIOLOGY OF ASTHMA IN SAUDI ARABIA**

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An epidemiological study to evaluate the prevalence of asthma was conducted on 2566 school children, both male and female, in three major centres of Eastern, Western and Central Provinces of Arabia. A comprehensive questionnaire involving 35 questions was used in the survey.

The result revealed that 15.9 % children had wheez in Jeddah, 11.9 % in Riyadh and 6.5 % in Dammam. Of these, 9.8 %, 9.3 % and 3.6 %, respectively had been diagnosed as asthmatics. Genetic factors were also found to be significant. 40.7 % father and 35.9 % mother of wheezy children had asthma compared to 8.6 % (both parents) of non-wheezy children. Similarly 13.9 %, 12.4 % and 6.4 % relatives of wheezy children in Jeddah, Riyadh and Dammam, respectively, had history of asthma.

The study shows a higher prevalence rate of asthma in our younger children and a significant relationship with family history of atopy.