

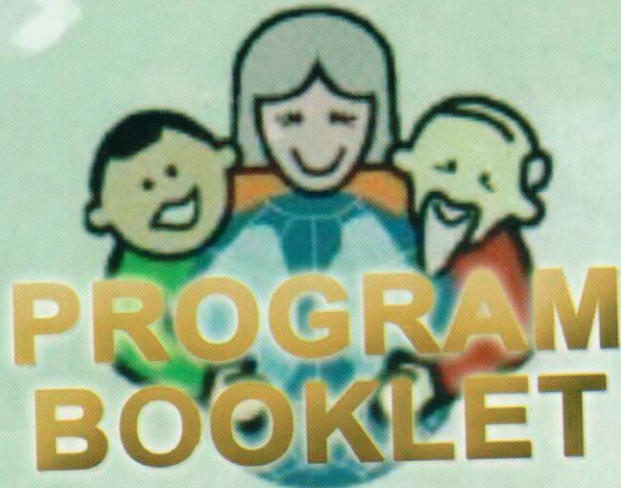


Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
National Guard Health Affairs
King Abdulaziz Medical City - Jeddah
Princess Noorah Oncology Center

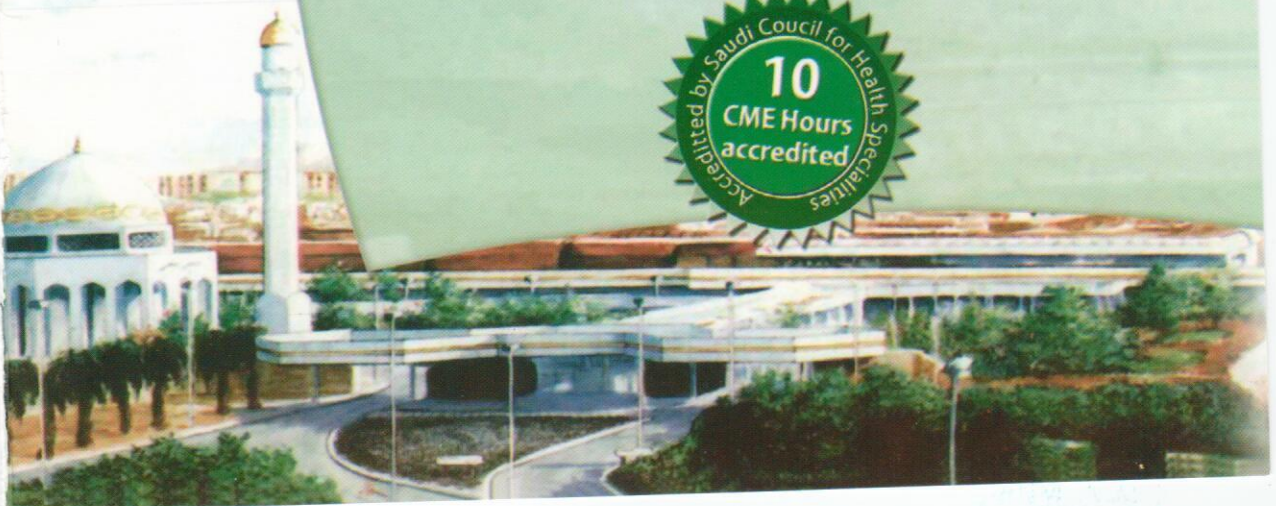


World Asthma Day 2010

"Comprehensive Coverage of All Update in Asthma"



10 May 2010 / 26 Jumada Al Awal
Andejani Hall, KAMC-WR



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EPIDEMIOLOGY OF ASTHMA IN SAUDI ARABIA

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Introduction

The prevalence of atopy in childhood has increased considerably over the last decades. This increased prevalence is of great concern to pediatricians and epidemiologists. Although the affluent western life style is clearly associated with this rise in childhood atopy, its immunological mechanism, genetic bases and environmental factors that trigger atopic disease in childhood remain topics of intense investigation. The increased prevalence of sensitization to airborne allergens parallels that of other atopic conditions such as atopic dermatitis, bronchial asthma and allergic rhinitis.

Method

The study was conducted using an internationally designed questionnaire [similar to the questionnaire of the International Study of Asthma and Allergy in Children (ISAAC)] as well as by diagnostic parameters on cross sectional population of children.

Results

The result revealed regional variation in the prevalence of diagnosed atopic disease. Prevalence figures of asthma were as follow: Taif 23%, Abha 13%, Dammam 12%, Gizan 21%, Hofouf 14%, Hail 22%, Qassim 16%, Riyadh 10%, Jeddah 12%, prevalence of eczema 25%, allergic rhinitis 40%. Though the number of children enrolled in the study varied from region to region, yet the trend shows that Taif, has the highest prevalence of asthma followed by Hail and Gizan.

It is concluded that childhood atopy, has attracted world-wide attention among physicians, researchers and health officials. Considerable amounts of financial resources have been allocated to elucidate the responsible mechanism because of the implication of this situation of public health and the rising of health budgets of affluent societies.