

Prevalence of Certain Common Disease in Relation to Some Socio-Biological Risk Factors: A Preliminary Hospital Based Study in Southern Punjab, Pakistan

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KEYWORDS Carcinoma. Hepatitis. Goitre. Renal Failure. Ulcer. Renal Stone. Tuberculosis. Multan

ABSTRACT A sample of 1553 patients of Nishtar Hospital, Multan were analysed during 1993 for prevalence of seven diseases in relation to sex; age; education; economic status; occupation; smoking; marital status; ABO and Rh blood groups; urban-rural, ethnic and geographic origins; and previous history of disease in the family. Results suggest that uterus, blood and stomach cancers are frequent; liver, cervix, colon and breast cancers are common and all other cancers are rare. Carcinoma in general is more common in females and its prevalence increases with age and decreased with education. A higher prevalence has been recorded in passive smokers, married individuals, rural masses and Baloch ethnic group. A higher prevalence of hepatitis has been recorded in classes with lower educational level; persons associated with business; individuals having AB blood group in passive smokers. A lower prevalence has been recorded in secretarial employees and students as also in Rh-negative individuals. Goitre has a higher prevalence in females, higher age, unmarried individuals, and individuals with O blood group and in Sahiwal, Liaha, Khanewal and Rajanpur districts. A higher prevalence has been suggested for individuals with A blood groups and for Jhang and Rahim Yar Khan districts. Renal failures are more frequent in males, in persons associated with secretarial service and farming, and the Pathan ethnic group. Ulcers are more common in farmers and students and in persons with O blood group. The disease has a lower prevalence in house ladies, secretarial employees and businessmen, individuals with A blood group, Baloch and Pathan ethnic groups and in Rajanpur, Jhang, Liaha and Bahawalpur districts. There is a significantly higher prevalence of renal stones in secretarial employees and farmers, in persons with O blood group, married individuals and in Baloch ethnic group. It is relatively more frequent in Liaha, Bahawalpur, Rahim Yar Khan Districts. The prevalence of tuberculosis increases with age, lower economic status, increased smoking, O blood group and Rh-positive individuals. Vehari, Rahim Yar Khan and Liaha are low risk tracts, while Rajanpur, Bahawalpur, Muzaffargarh and Dera Ghazi Khan are high risk tracts.