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Impact of chemical and non-chemical agents on respiratory system including asthma among Iraqi people

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Introduction: Asthma is marked by reversible airway obstruction and airway inflammation. People with asthma demonstrate symptoms—such as wheezing, coughing, and exertional dyspnea—that are accompanied by greater airflow obstruction. Chronic bronchitis is described by chronic cough and sputum production. Pulmonary emphysema (commonly mentioned to as emphysema) is a pathologic course including air-space expansion distal to the terminal bronchioles, accompanied by destruction of the bronchiolar walls. COPD includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

Objective: The study objectives were: (1) the prevalence rate of asthma and other lung disease in general and by different sub-categories of populations that exist at different distances from war zone, (2) predictive risk factors for asthma and other lung diseases (3) the impact of Chemical (Ch) & non-chemical (NCh) agents on different kinds of lung diseases in relationship to diverse war sectors.

Methods: A cross-sectional study constructed on a sample of 1155 Iraqis who survived in the Basrah and Messan (South of Iraq) Provence's in 2002. Only males were recruited in the study with the ages of 18 – 45 years and were within 300 Km of the epicenter of the 1991 GW. The study population were assigned to one of three GW exposure zones, based on where they were located during the 1991 GW, as follow: zone 1 (war zone within 100 Km of Kuwait), zone 2 (within 100-190 Km). & zone 3 (within 200-300 Km).

Results: The study results showed that 50.8% of study population were in zone 3 and 14.5% in zone 1. There was a significant difference in the prevalence rate of asthma in general across the three war zones: highest in zone 1 (9.8%) compared to zone 2 (1.8%), and 5.8% in zone 3. The significant difference also applied to other lung diseases; pneumonia, bronchitis and other lung conditions studied. As to bronchitis, the highest rate was among zone one (27.2%) and the lowest among zone three (9.4%). The results identified the predictor risk factors for asthma as those of lived in zone 2, with high BMI and higher income. All asthmatic, bronchitis, pneumonia and other lung diseases inhaled smoke from fired oil wells while there no significant effect to days of exposure to non chemical factors like hearing chemical alarms or any dead bodies.

Conclusion: The study concludes some risk factors for asthma and other lung diseases.

Biography

Mona Radwan has completed her PhD from Zagazig University and Postdoctoral studies from Lund University School of Medicine and School of Social Sciences respectively. She is one of the steering committees of Women in Great Sciences at Lund University. She has published in reputed journals and has been serving as an Editorial Board Member of repute.

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