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## Epidemiological approach of the diabetes and the risk factors in the Algerian South

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**Objective:** In spite of a multiplicity of the studies of prevalence of the type II diabetes in the North of the country, this parameter remains little known in the Algerian South. On the occasion of a survey on the epidemiology of the arterial high blood pressure and the factors of cardiovascular risk realized between March and April, 2010 on a representative sample of the population of El-Menia, oasis situated in Algerian Sahara, we estimated the prevalence of the diabetes.

**Population and methods:** We made a transverse Survey on a representative sample of the population with an age  $\geq$  40 years. The sample arose from cluster sampling. The inclusive subjects benefited from a sampling of blood after informed consent. The glycemias were measured by using a standardized method by a referenced laboratory for the needs for the survey. A subject is considered as being a diabetic if it is under hypoglycemiant treatment and/or presenting a fasting blood glucose  $\geq$  1, 26 g/l.

**Results:** 618 subjects were taken; 70,2 % were women; the average age was of 58,3 years. 110 diabetics were identified; so with 17,8 % of prevalence. Prevalence was 18,9 % (82/434) at the women and 15,2 % (28/184) at the men. Prevalence increased by 5,2 % (10/193) for 40-49 years to 17,7 % (10/193) for 50-59 years and to 27 % (72/267) for 60 years and more ( p<0,01 ). Prevalence of the diabetes was 14.8 % for the subjects of white ethnic group and 18.6 % for the subjects of black ethnic group. An intolerance at the glucose was found at 16.3 % (83/508) of the subjects with a high Arterial blood pressure found to 74.5 % of the diabetics versus 45.3 % at the not diabetics (P<0.01). The average rate of triglycerides at the diabetics was of  $1.57\pm0.73$ g/l; and an average IMC of  $26.3\pm4.9$ . A diabetic on 4 didn't know his disease at the time of the survey.

**Discussion:** Prevalence of the type II diabetes in our oasis as well as percentage of misunderstanding of the disease were similar to those found in studies carried out in the North of the country, Algeria characterized by a level of average metabolic and cardiovascular risk, joined prevalences observed in countries at high risk, confirming the forecasts of the epidemiologists which expected, since a few years, a sensitive increase of prevalence of the diabetes under our parts of the country

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