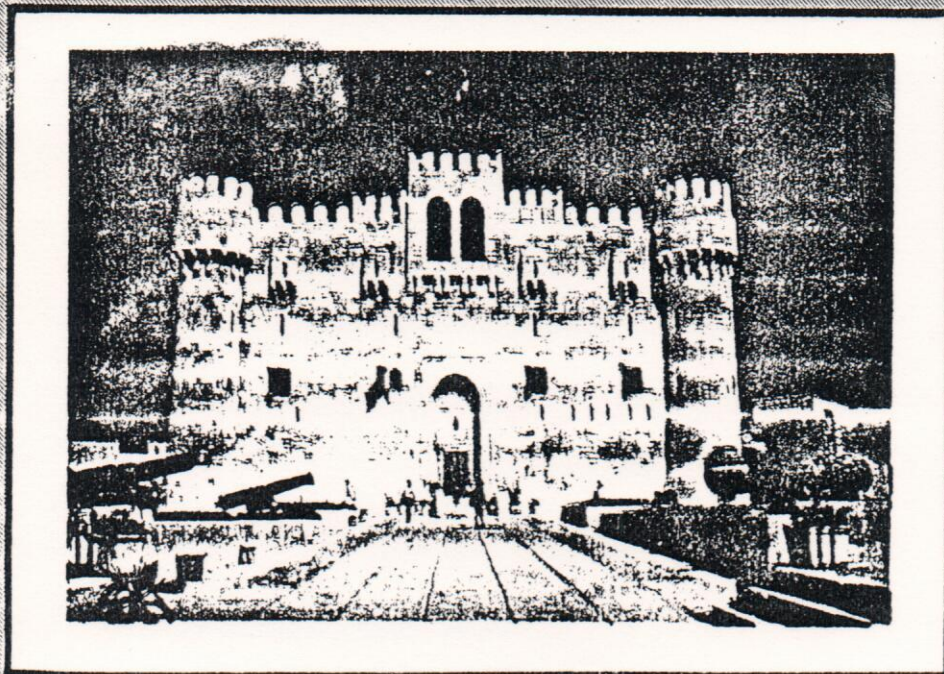


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Abstracts

**INDOOR ALLEGENS AND SKIN REACTIVITY
IN CHILDREN IN SAUDI ARABIA**

by

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Asthma in children is a common disease in Saudi Arabia with up to 11.5 % children, nationally, having wheeze. The disease vary from region to region and extrinsic factors are considered to be important in the development of the specific IgE antibodies in susceptible individuals resulting in the disease. Based on a study of indoor allergens in Riyadh and other cities in the Kingdom, a panel of inhalant allergens was selected for skin prick test (SPT) in order to identify the causative agent. The panel included cockroach, cat and house dust mites, pollen, fungi as well as cotton flock, horse epithelium etc. as miscellaneous allergens. SPT was conducted on a group of 55 asthmatic children (31 males, 25 females). 35 allergens in total were tested along with positive and negative controls. 35 (63.7 %) reacted to one or more allergens. Mild, moderate and significant sensitivities were recorded for indoor allergens, pollen, fungal spores and the miscellaneous group. Strongest reaction was recorded with indoor nature of allergens. 28 positive reactions were recorded to differing fungi. The study indicates the association of various allergens in the IgE mediated allergic disorders and though some reactions were mild positive, necessitate further investigation with more relevant and carefully selected allergens for the accurate diagnosis of the disease in children in Saudi Arabia.