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Epidemiology of Atopic Diseases in Saudi Arabia

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Introduction

Studies on Epidemiology of bronchial asthma and other allergic diseases in children in different regions of Saudi Arabia has continued since 1987. Saudi Arabia is a vast country with different flora and geographical zone.

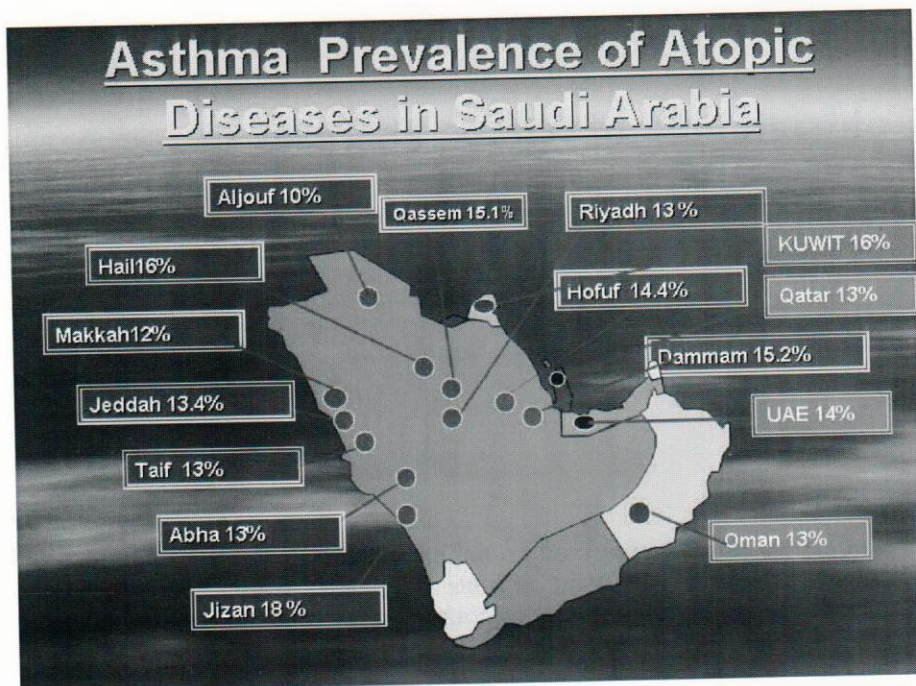
Method

The studies were 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.

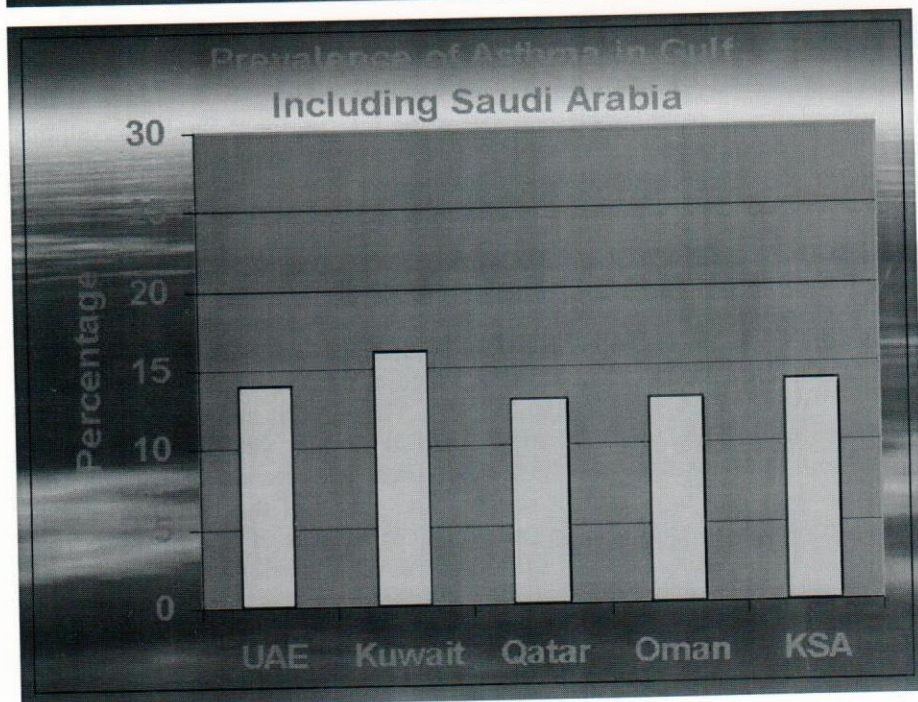
Result

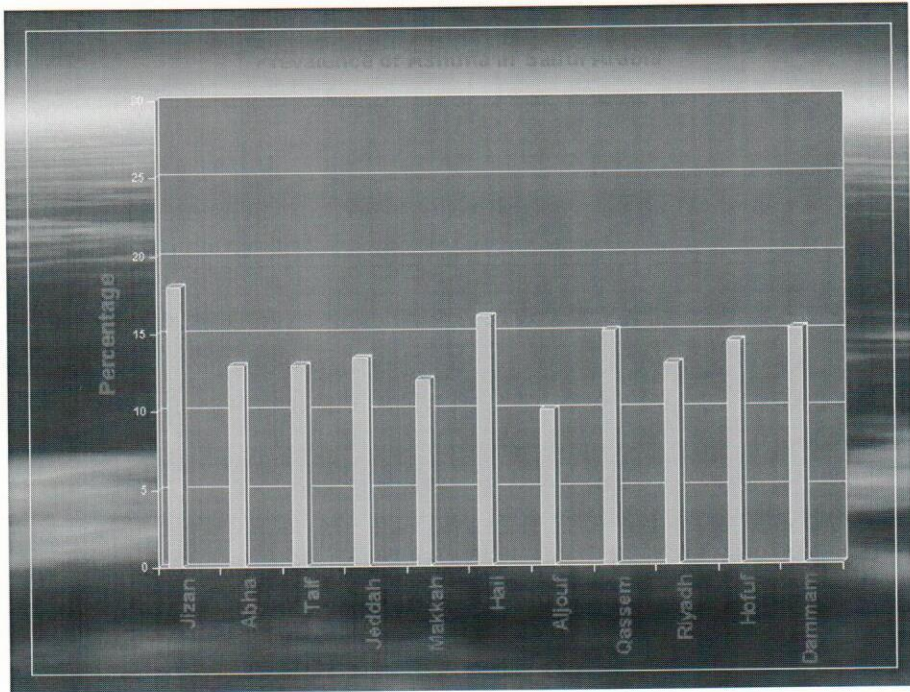
The result revealed regional variation in the prevalence of diagnosed atopic diseases. Prevalence figures of asthma were as follow: Abha 13%, Dammam 15.2%, Gizan 18%, Hofouf 14.4%, Hail 16%, Qassim 15.1%, Riyadh 13%, and Jeddah 13.4%. Though the number of children enrolled in the study varied from region to region, yet the trend shows that Gizan, a coastal region has the highest prevalence of asthma followed by Hail, an agricultural region. The cause of the high prevalence and its regional variation, though, is not the subject of this presentation; nevertheless, this may be attributable to the vast development and change in life style, etc. in the respective regions.

Asthma Prevalence of Atopic Diseases in Saudi Arabia



Prevalence of Asthma in Gulf Including Saudi Arabia





Conclusion

We conclude that the Kingdom is one of the countries that have high prevalence of bronchial asthma.