

patient came from the periphery of Al-Kadhimiya (rural area) (78%), while the rest comes from Al-Kadhimiya city itself. The highest rate of patients was of low level of education (79.6%) while the rest were of high level of education (21.4%).

14.7% of cases were female who had delivered 1-3 children, 52.1% of cases had delivered 4-6 children while 33.2 % of patients had more than 6 children for last delivery.

About three quarters (73.6%) of cases had their child delivery at home (by a midwife) while only (26.4%) had delivered at hospital as shown in (Table 1).

Table 1. Demographic criteria

Criteria		N (%)
Age (years)	1 - 10	14 (5.6%)
	11 - 20	18 (7.2%)
	21 - 30	100 (40%)
	31 - 40	65 (25.4%)
	41 - 50	30 (12.4%)
	≥ 60	23 (9.4%)
Marital status	Married	192 (76.8%)
	Non – married	58 (23.2%)
Parity	1 - 3 children	28 (14.7%)
	4 - 6 children	99 (52.1%)
	≥ 6 children	63 (33.2%)
Place of delivery	Home	140 (73.6%)
	Hospital	50 (26.4%)
Educational status	Low education*	199 (79.6%)
	High education**	51 (21.4%)

* = primary school or below, ** = secondary school or above

The highest rate of patient suffered from fissure in ano for more than 5 years without seeking medical advice. The most common presenting symptoms is anal pain (100%), followed by constipation (64%), bleeding per rectum (55.2%), and abdominal pain (30.8 %).

During the local examination of all cases, it was found that fissure in ano was in an anterior location in (51.6%) of cases. The clinical type of fissure in ano was found chronic in (72%) of cases. Regarding the type of treatment; conservative treatment was used for the acute fissure (48%). For the chronic stage (52%) a

surgical treatment was usually required, of these, (77%) had undergone lord dilatation under anesthesia while in (23%) of the surgically treated cases lateral internal sphincterotomy was necessary as shown in (Table 3).

Table 2. Anal fissure clinical criteria

Criteria		N (%)
Duration	< 1 year	71 (28.4%)
	1 - 5 year	119 (47.6%)
	> 5 years	60 (24%)
Associated symptoms	Anal pain	250 (100%)
	Constipation	160 (64.2%)
	Bleeding Per-rectum	138 (55%)
	Abdominal Pain	77 (30.6%)
	Abdominal Distension	44 (9%)
Location of fissure	Anterior	129 (51.6%)
	Posterior	120 (48%)
	Lateral	1 (0.4%)
Fissure type	Acute	70 (28%)
	Chronic	180 (72%)
Treatment	Conservative	120 (48%)
	Surgical	130 (52%)
	Lord dilatation	100
	LIS	30

LAS = Lateral internal sphincterotomy

Discussion

Fissure in ano is a common painful anal problem affects females, more than males. The commonest age group, in this study, was between 21-30 year while in other studies that were done in Europe and USA, it was between 40-60 years of age ^(15,16,17). This may be due to early marriage in our country.

The majority of cases (78%) of anal fissure were in females living in rural area. The same result was found in a study done in India, while in a study done in UK, the incidence was much different between the Urban and the rural areas ^(18,19,20).

The number of patient's children (parity) was found closely related to the prevalence of anal fissure in this study. In a study done in UK, the majority cases of fissure in ano occurred in the first and second delivery ^(21,22,23).

Delivery at home by a midwife is associated with a high rate of anal fissure (73.6%) which was also