

clinic of Al-Kadhimiya teaching hospital during the period between the first of July to the end of September 2000. A convenient method of sampling was used sample was obtained from women attending the outpatient clinic of Gynecology and Obstetric at Al-Khadhimiya teaching hospital.

A pre-coded, pre-tested questionnaire form was administered to each woman and a gynecological examination was performed after taking patient consent. Cervical smear was done to each woman. Inclusion criteria was married woman (divorced and widows are included also) while the exclusion criteria were pregnancy, abortion, and vaginal bleeding of any type.

Data obtained from the study sample included information on demographic and socioeconomic status like age in years, age at marriage and educational level, hygienic practices like using sanitary pads, method of underwear drying and washing after intercourse, and other data related to reproductive, obstetrical and gynecological history such as age at menarche, age at first livebirth, gravidity, parity, prior lower genital tract infection for the last year and curettage, and contraception.

Each woman was examined gynaecologically, then cervical smear was

taken. The prevalence of Different pathological changes detected by pap smear were studied in relation to different variables.. Statistical analysis were done using SPSS version 7.5 computer software (statistical package for social sciences) in association with EPI.6.2 computer software.

Results

Of the total of 302 women to whom pap smear was performed, 99.3% (300 women) had satisfactory smears and only 2 (0.7%) were inadequate. Pathological changes were found in 209(69.7%) women while 91(30.3%) had normal cervical smears. It was possible to find more than one cytological changes in one smear, that's why addition of the number of different pathological changes in some tables of this study are higher than 209. Results showed that 62.7% of women had non-specific cervicitis.

The prevalence of pathological changes evident by pap smear and its types were; Non-specific cervicitis 188(62.7%), Squamous metaplasia 23 (7.7%), Moniliasis 11 (3.7%), Squamous dysplasia (mild and moderate) 7 (2.3%), trichomonous vaginalis 4(1.3%), HPV infection 4(1.3%), and IUCD changes 4(1.3%) (Table 1).

Table 1: The prevalence 95% CI (%) of pathological changes evident by pap smear

Type of pathological changes		No.	%
Non specific cervicitis		188	62.7
Squamous metaplasia		23	7.7
Moniliasis		11	3.7
Squamous dysplasia	Mild	6	2
	Moderate	1	0.3
	Severe	0	0
Trichomonous vaginalis		4	1.3
HPV		4	1.3
IUCD changes		4	1.3
All pathology*		209	69.7
No pathology		91	30.3
Total		300	100

*More than one type of pathology is possible