

Table 3 shows that most of the patients who had eosinophil count below 450 cell/ μ l were B.F (26 cases out of 34, 76.5%) and

most of the patients that had eosinophil count above 450 cell / μ l were formula fed (35 out of 66 cases, 53%, p -value = 0.000).

Table 3: The patient's distribution according to Eosinophil cells count and feeding history

Feeding history	Eosinophil cells count				Total	
	< 450		> 450			
	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage	No.	Percentage
B.F	26	76.5 %	16	24.2 %	42	42 %
Mixed	1	2.9 %	15	22.7 %	16	16 %
Formula	7	20.6 %	35	53.0 %	42	42 %
Total	34	100 %	66	100 %	100	100 %

p -value = 0.000 (significant)

The mean eosinophils count for the B.F patients was 355.7 ± 193.1 cell/ μ l, for the mixed fed patients was 688.1 ± 217.8 cell/ μ l,

while for the formula fed patient were 654.8 ± 236.3 cell/ μ l ($p < 0.001$) as shown in table 4.

Table 4: The Mean eosinophil cells count according to feeding history

Feeding history	Eosinophil cells count		
	No.	Mean	SD
B.F	42	355.7	193.1
Mixed	16	688.1	217.8
Formula	42	654.8	236.3
Total	100	534.5	263.2

p -value < 0.001 No. (number) B.F (breast feeding)

Discussion

Atopic dermatitis is a distressing inflammatory skin disease affecting large number of children worldwide, with its variable clinical presentations and course, constitutes a syndrome made up of an identifiable group of signs and symptoms that represents the dermatological manifestation of the atopic diathesis⁽¹¹⁾.

The total number of the cases included in the study was 100 cases; most of the patients were males (58%). This goes with Adriana et al that showed 41.3% of AD patients were females and 58.7% were males⁽¹²⁾. It is well known fact that both sexes are affected, but in adults the disease is more common in females, while in children, atopic dermatitis is more common in males⁽¹³⁾.

Male gender, and family history of atopy, was associated with increased risk of AD in the first 6 months of life. These findings suggest that the genetic and perinatal influences are important for this difference in both genders⁽¹⁴⁾. There is no clear reason for this difference; in that it is more common in males in childhood.

Family history was positive in 84 cases (84%) while, 16 cases (16%) had negative family history. This agrees with what was found by Blumenthal who showed that most of the cases with AD had positive family history⁽¹⁵⁾. This may be due to the fact that AD is an inherited disease that runs in families but there is no clear way of inheritance and this explains why clinically normal parents may have affected children,