

Abstract

Introduction: Brucellosis is still an endemic disease in animals and human in Fayoum.

Aim and objectives: This descriptive study was conducted in Fayoum fever hospital to determine some epidemiological characteristics of *Brucella* infection.

Subjects and methods: Available recorded data for admitted brucellosis patients, during period of two years (from 1/1/2006 to 31/12/2007) were extracted using a data collection form, and the newly diagnosed cases of *Brucella*, during the six month period of the study (from 1/2/2008 to 31/7/2008), were interviewed by using a questionnaire form.

Results: The findings of the present study revealed that, most of patients were above age of 15 years old [(86.2 %) of recorded and (90.6 %) of interviewed cases]. Females constituted (59.7 %) of the interviewed cases. Most of patients live in rural areas; this is similar in recorded (92.2 %) and interviewed (93.3 %) cases, with (64.4 %) of interviewed patients raised animals at home or on a separate place. Most of recorded patients (76.5 %) were reported during period from March to October. The most observed symptoms among interviewed patients were fever (100 %), malaise (98 %), arthralgia (92.6 %), headache (91.7 %) and bony aches (91.3 %). Consumption of unpasteurized milk and milk products was found in majority (92.6 %) of interviewed cases while (73.8 %) of patients, due to their occupations, had history of contact with animals.

Conclusion: This study emphasized that brucellosis represents a significant public health problem in Fayoum governorate.

Key words: Brucellosis, *Brucella* infection, females, rural, occupation, relapse, unpasteurized milk, contact with animals.