

## *Abstract*

**Background:** The causes of cancer in children are poorly understood, they were either attributed to genetic susceptibility ( $\cong$  20%) or environmental hazardous exposures (5-90%). **Aim of the study:** This study aims to assess the evidence of links between environmental exposure to toxic substances and childhood cancer. **Patient and methods:** The current study had been conducted on 100 children; 60 males and 40 females, from Fayoum of age groups between day one and 15 years. Some parental and childhood chemical and physical exposures as well as food consumption and social habits were reviewed in a questionnaire form. Biochemical analysis of drinking water had been performed. **Results:** We had found that there was a positive association for parental exposure to pesticide (73%), solvents (67%), incinerator fumes (43%), industrial hydrocarbons (20%) and petroleum byproducts (19%), maternal prenatal exposure to passive smoking (41%), and childhood exposure to pesticides (88%) as well as residential radiation field (45%). **Conclusion:** we had found a high positive association for pesticide use especially in rural areas either from agricultural or residential use.

**Keywords:** childhood malignancy, environmental risk, pesticides, parental occupational risk.