

**THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND CLINICAL FEATURES
OF HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA PATIENTS
IN FAYOUM GOVERNORATE**

By

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THESIS

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is a leading cause of cancer-related death worldwide, and the burden of this devastating cancer is expected to increase further in coming years. The collection and analysis of epidemiologic HCC data will play a critical role in guiding future disease prevention strategies and optimizing patient management. In the recent past, HCC has become the second most prevalent cancer among men in Egypt. A new and global approach to the study of HCC epidemiology is required if HCC disease prevention and treatment strategies are to be adequately directed and supported in coming years.

AIM OF THE WORK: To evaluate epidemiological and clinical features of HCC patients in Fayoum Governorate.

METHODS: The study was conducted on 84 HCC patients from different districts of Fayoum. HCC was diagnosed according to AASLD guidelines. Exposure data were collected by an interviewer-administered standardized questionnaire about epidemiologic, occupational and medical history.

RESULTS: The mean age was 62 years old (24-83), male to female ratio was 2:1, the majority of cases came from rural area (77.3%), farmers constituted 39% of cases. 38% of cases were smoker and 20% were diabetic. Bilharziasis was prevalent in 52.4% and cirrhosis 95.2% of cases. Hepatitis C was the main etiology (79.8%), followed by hepatitis B (14.3%). Abdominal pain was the main presenting symptoms (71.4%) and hepatosplenomegaly were the main sign (54.8% & 72.6%). AFP was diagnostic (>200 ng/ml) in (22.6%) of cases. Most of focal lesion were in right lobe (57.1%) and in the form of single lesion (57.1%). In (15.5%) of cases the lesion was <3cm and was >7cm in (27.4%) of cases. 22% were metastatic at first presentation, mainly pulmonary. Some (27.4%, 29.8% & 31%) of patients were in intermediate, advanced and end stages respectively. Initial therapy for most patients (72.6%) was supportive.

CONCLUSION: Hepatitis C infection was the most common etiology of liver cirrhosis; supportive treatment was the most common therapy employed. Liver cirrhosis was the main risk factor for HCC development in Fayoum.

Key words: Hepatocellular carcinoma, epidemiology, HCV, Fayoum.

