



ATOPIC ECZEMA/DERMATITIS

THE PREVALENCE OF ATOPIC DERMATITIS IN CHILDREN IN SAN JUAN SACATEPÉQUEZ, GUATEMALA

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Background: Childhood allergic diseases are common in infants and children. The International study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC) was created for comparison of prevalence of symptoms of these diseases in different countries using a standardized questionnaire. Little research has been conducted in Guatemala to evaluate allergic diseases in children.

Objective: Validation of the ISAAC questionnaire in Guatemala. Description of the prevalence of eczema and other comorbid allergic diseases in children in the schools in San Juan Sacatepéquez.

Materials and Methods: Cross sectional study, assessing the validity of the ISAAC-Atopic Dermatitis questionnaire vs. a clinical examination using the U.K. Working Party's Diagnostic Criteria for Atopic Dermatitis as the basis for diagnosis. Examine prevalence of atopic dermatitis, asthma and allergic rhinitis in the same population. Population selected using cluster random sample of the schools, the children were randomly chosen in the schools. The parents completed questionnaires and the children had a physical examination.

Results: Study sample 181 children ages 5 to 15 years, mean age of 9.41. 93 (51.3%) were 5 to 8 years old, 37(20.3%) were 9 to 12 years old and 51(28.2%) were 11 to 15 years old; 90(49.7%) were female. Sensitivity was 66.7% (95% CI = [22.2, 95.7]). Specificity was 78.5% (95% CI = [68.8, 86.3]). Point prevalence of AD by physical exam 5.9% (95% CI = [2.2, 12.5]). The likely life time prevalence of AD based on the survey 33% and most of the children reported a history of asthma and/or seasonal allergies.

Conclusions: The ISAAC instrument had a sensitivity and specificity consider consistent with previous use. In comparison to other Latin American countries the prevalence of atopic dermatitis is lower than most. Our study is one of the first attempts to use the ISAAC questionnaire and validate it in Guatemala.

