



شبكة المعلومات الجامعية  
التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكروفيلم

# بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم



**MONA MAGHRABY**



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# شبكة المعلومات الجامعية التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكروفيلم



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# جامعة عين شمس التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكروفيلم

## قسم

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علي هذه الأقراص المدمجة قد أعدت دون أية تغييرات



## يجب أن

تحفظ هذه الأقراص المدمجة بعيدا عن الغبار



**MONA MAGHRABY**



# **Sensitization to Ragweed in Egyptian Children with Respiratory Allergy**

Thesis

*Submitted for Partial Fulfillment of  
Master Degree in Pediatrics*

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# قَالَ

لَسْبِحَانَكَ لَا يَلْمُ لَنَا  
إِلَّا مَا عَلِمْنَا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ  
الْعَلِيمُ الْعَظِيمُ

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# List of Contents

Title	Page No.
List of Abbreviations.....	5
List of Tables.....	7
List of Figures .....	9
Introduction and Aim of the Work.....	1
Review of Literature	
▪ Ragweed Pollen Allergy .....	13
▪ Allergy Diagnostic Tests .....	27
▪ Lines of Treatment of Ragweed Allergy .....	57
Subjects and Methods.....	63
Results.....	70
Discussion .....	82
Recommendations.....	90
Summary.....	91
References .....	94
Arabic Summary	

# List of Abbreviations

Abb.	Full term
AAAAI.....	<i>American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology</i>
ACE .....	<i>Angiotensin converting enzyme</i>
AD.....	<i>Atopic Dermatitis</i>
AR.....	<i>Allergic Rhinitis</i>
ARIA.....	<i>Allergic Rhinitis and its Impact on Asthma</i>
BAT.....	<i>Basophil Activation Test</i>
BAU.....	<i>Bioequivalent Allergen Unit</i>
BLG .....	<i>Beta-LactoGlobulin</i>
BU.....	<i>Biological Unit</i>
CAP.....	<i>Community-Acquired Pneumonia</i>
CAST .....	<i>Cellular Antigen Stimulation Test</i>
CD.....	<i>Cluster of Differentiation</i>
CFU .....	<i>Colony- Forming Unit</i>
CSPT .....	<i>Commercial Skin Prick Test</i>
DBPCFC.....	<i>Double-blind placebo controlled food challenge</i>
Der P.....	<i>Dermatophagoides Pteronyssinus</i>
EAACI .....	<i>European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology</i>
ELISA.....	<i>Enzyme – Linked Immunosorbent Assay</i>
ER.....	<i>Emergency Room</i>
ETAC.....	<i>Early Treatment of the Atopic Child</i>
FA .....	<i>Food Allergy</i>
FcγR .....	<i>Fc Gamma Receptor</i>
FFSPT.....	<i>Fresh Fruit Skin Prick Test</i>
GINA .....	<i>Global Initiative for Asthma</i>
ICs.....	<i>Inhaled Corticosteroids</i>
IDT .....	<i>Intradermal Test</i>
Ig.....	<i>Immunoglobulin</i>
IL .....	<i>InterLeukin</i>
KSA.....	<i>Kingdom of Saudi Arabia</i>
LABA.....	<i>Long Acting Beta Agonist</i>



# List of Abbreviations cont...

Abb.	Full term
<i>LPR</i> .....	<i>Late-Phase Reaction</i>
<i>LTPs</i> .....	<i>Lipid Transfer Proteins</i>
<i>LTRA</i> .....	<i>Leukotriene Receptor Antagonist</i>
<i>MV</i> .....	<i>Mechanical Ventilation</i>
<i>NADPH</i> .....	<i>Nicotinamide Adenine Dinucleotide Phosphate</i>
<i>OAS</i> .....	<i>Oral Allergy Syndrome</i>
<i>OVA</i> .....	<i>Ovalbumin</i>
<i>PICU</i> .....	<i>Pediatric Intensive Care Unit</i>
<i>PPV</i> .....	<i>Positive Predictive Value</i>
<i>PR</i> .....	<i>Pathogen Response</i>
<i>PUVA</i> .....	<i>Psoralen and Ultraviolet A</i>
<i>RAST</i> .....	<i>Radio-AllergoSorbent Test</i>
<i>SCIT</i> .....	<i>Subcutaneous Immunotherapy</i>
<i>SD</i> .....	<i>Standard Deviation</i>
<i>SPSS</i> .....	<i>Statistical Program for Social Science</i>
<i>SPT</i> .....	<i>Skin Prick Test</i>
<i>Th2</i> .....	<i>T helper type 2</i>
<i>TLPs</i> .....	<i>Thaumatococcus like Proteins</i>
<i>UAE</i> .....	<i>United Arab Emirates</i>
<i>UK</i> .....	<i>United Kingdom</i>
<i>USA</i> .....	<i>United State of America</i>
<i>UV</i> .....	<i>Ultraviolet</i>
<i>WAO</i> .....	<i>World Allergy Organization</i>

# List of Tables

Table No.	Title	Page No.
<b>Table 1:</b>	Classification of PR proteins and examples of their function .....	22
<b>Table 2:</b>	Families of PR proteins commonly implicated in IgE cross-reactivity resulting in OAS .....	23
<b>Table 3:</b>	Prevailing aero-allergens .....	31
<b>Table 4:</b>	Interpretation of skin prick test .....	37
<b>Table 5:</b>	Grading for the skin prick test.....	38
<b>Table 6:</b>	False results in skin prick tests .....	41
<b>Table 7:</b>	Medicines having a suppressant effect on the skin prick test.....	43
<b>Table 8:</b>	Grading for the intradermal test .....	45
<b>Table 9:</b>	SPT compared with specific IgE .....	47
<b>Table 10:</b>	Concentration of IgG in relation to antigens.....	51
<b>Table 11:</b>	Diagnostic tests of unproven value.....	54
<b>Table 12:</b>	Allergen-specific immunotherapy: indications, contraindications and special considerations .....	58
<b>Table 13:</b>	Sublingual immunotherapy .....	60
<b>Table 14:</b>	Clinical data of the included children.....	70
<b>Table 15:</b>	Ragweed grass pollen skin Prick test results.....	71
<b>Table 16:</b>	Treatment modalities of bronchial asthma among the studied children.....	74
<b>Table 17:</b>	Comparison between ragweed sensitized and non-sensitized as regards age, sex and age at diagnosis .....	75

# List of Tables *cont...*

Table No.	Title	Page No.
<b>Table 18:</b>	Effect of passive smoking and residency on ragweed sensitization .....	76
<b>Table 19:</b>	Skin and nasal allergies in relation to ragweed sensitization .....	78
<b>Table 20:</b>	Family history of atopy in relation to ragweed sensitization .....	78
<b>Table 21:</b>	Flare ups and hospitalizations among included children in relation to the status of ragweed sensitization .....	79
<b>Table 22:</b>	Ragweed sensitization in relation to the timing, grading and level of control of bronchial asthma .....	80
<b>Table 23:</b>	Relation between ragweed sensitization and asthma controller therapies .....	81

# List of Figures

Fig. No.	Title	Page No.
<b>Figure (1):</b>	Appearance of <i>A. artemisiifolia</i> .....	13
<b>Figure (2):</b>	<i>A. Artemisiifolia</i> pollen .....	14
<b>Figure (3):</b>	Worldwide distribution of ragweed, distribution of ragweed in Europe .....	16
<b>Figure (4):</b>	Approach to diagnosis of OAS.....	26
<b>Figure (5):</b>	Allergy, anaphylaxis and atopy definitions.....	28
<b>Figure (6):</b>	The atopic march.....	29
<b>Figure (7):</b>	SPT procedures.....	35
<b>Figure (8):</b>	Difference between wheal and flare .....	38
<b>Figure (9):</b>	Measurement of wheal size.....	39
<b>Figure (10):</b>	Skin prick test interpretation .....	40
<b>Figure (11):</b>	Diagnostic algorithm for food allergy .....	47
<b>Figure (12):</b>	Diagnostic algorithm for inhalant allergy.....	50
<b>Figure (13):</b>	History of other allergies .....	72
<b>Figure (14):</b>	Family history of atopy .....	72
<b>Figure (15):</b>	Pattern of bronchial asthma among the studied children.....	73
<b>Figure (16):</b>	Responsiveness of bronchial asthma to treatment.....	73
<b>Figure (17):</b>	Adherence to treatment among the included children .....	75
<b>Figure (18):</b>	Residential classification of ragweed sensitization .....	76
<b>Figure (19):</b>	Ragweed sensitization in relation to the infantile type of feeding .....	77
<b>Figure (20):</b>	Frequency of hospitalization of the included children in the last year.....	79
<b>Figure (21):</b>	School attendance in relation to ragweed sensitization. ....	81

## INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE WORK

Asthma is a heterogeneous lung disorder characterized by airway obstruction, inflammation and eosinophil infiltration into the lung. Asthma, typically begins in childhood and is the most common chronic disease of childhood, it has reached epidemic proportions. The symptoms of asthma include coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, and even death (*Meltzer, 2016*).

Ragweed has long been recognized as a major health problem. Allergic rhinitis (AR) and asthma are the main allergic diseases that have been associated with exposure to ragweed pollen, while skin allergic reactions are less common. In the 1930s ragweed was identified as the major cause of hay fever and asthma (*Ihler and Canis, 2015*).

About 40 species are known and *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* (common or short ragweed) and *A. trifida* (giant ragweed) are the most common species (*Essl et al., 2015*). Among all *Ambrosia* species, *A. artemisiifolia* is the most prominent and invasive, being a major cause of allergy in late summer worldwide (*Chen et al., 2018*).

Environmental factors such as temperature and CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations have great influences on pollen production and therefore on the allergen amount. These two environmental

factors are increasing due to climate change and urbanization (*Ghiani et al., 2016*).

The majority of the Middle East countries are generally known to be desert regions with low rainfall and very high temperatures. As such, weeds are one of the common inhabitants of the plant kingdom as they require less water and can survive under harsh conditions. Therefore, most of the countries in the region have weeds pollen prevalent in their environment (*Babu et al., 2011*).

Ragweed pollen allergy represents a major health issue and this may be due to the high pollen production of the ragweed plant and the allergenic potency of the ragweed pollen itself. One single ragweed plant can release up to one billion pollen grains per season (*Tosi et al., 2011*).

Exposure or the increase of pollen counts over a certain period of time leads to a strong increase of the sensitization rate and the occurrence of symptoms. It is important to underline that even low exposure, meaning as little as 10 pollen grains per cubic meter of air, can trigger an allergic reaction (*DellaValle et al., 2012*).

Ragweed pollen grains can be transported several hundreds to thousands of kilometers by air and can cause allergy symptoms in areas where the ragweed plant is not widespread (*Chen et al., 2018*).

Due to their high prevalence and severe symptoms, ragweed pollen-induced AR and asthma may significantly affect quality of life, with an impact on attendance and performance at school or the workplace, leading to considerable healthcare costs and a high economic burden (*Larsen et al., 2016*).

## **Aim of the Work**

This study aimed at evaluating the frequency of ragweed sensitization among a group of atopic Egyptian children with physician-diagnosed respiratory allergies through SPT. The ultimate objective is to roughly estimate the contribution of this allergen as a trigger for respiratory allergy in the pediatric age group in Egypt.