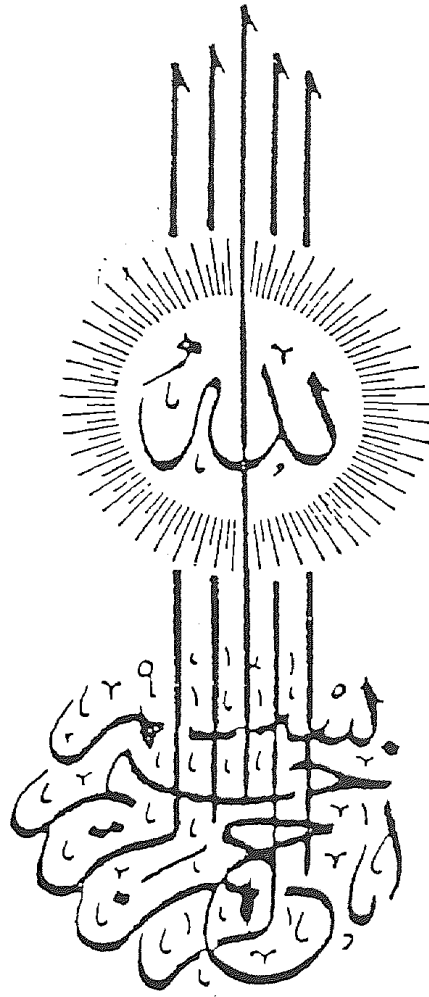
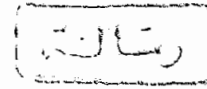




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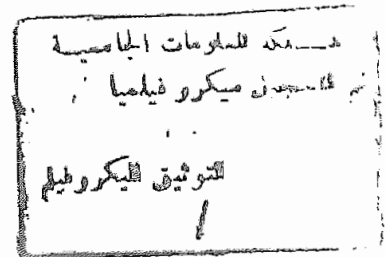
Ain Shams University
Institute of Postgraduate
Childhood Studies
Medical Department



[Psychological Characteristics of Some Skin Diseases]
A thesis proposal For Partial Fulfillment of the Master
Degree in Childhood Studies
Medical Department

By

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DISCUSSION AND JUDJMENT COMMITTEE

The vice-president for higher studies and research of
Ain-Shams University has approved to form the following
committee for the discussion of Mr. Tahany Fath Alha Ahmed

1. Dr. Hamed Ahmed El Khayat, Professor
of pediatric aim. shams. ^{ll} Chairman.
2. Dr. Hamed Mahmoud Shatta Professor
of ped. aim. shams. ^{ll} Member.
3. Dr. Houssem Saubhy El Mokadem
Professor of Derm. ^{ll} Member.
4.
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List of Abbreviations

AA : Alopecia areata

AD : Atopic Dermatitis

AV : Acne vulgaris

CGRP : Calcitonin -gen related peptide

CNS : Central nervous system

PHM : Peptide histidine methionine

PRI : Psoriasis Research Institute

VIP : Vasoactive Intestinal Peptide

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INTRODUCTION

&

**AIM OF
THE WORK**

INTRODUCTION

Skin is an organ of touch, temperature and pain sensation and as an erogenous organ. The skin has great psychological significance at all ages. It is an organ of emotional expression and a site for the discharge of anxiety. (Rook et al 1992).

Salmon and Moos in 1969 explored the interrelationship of stress, immunology and physical and emotional disorders, applying psycho-immunology to the effect of stress on the immune system. Two decades later Robert Ader coined the term "Psycho-immunology" for an emerging field that present evidence that the central and peripheral nervous system as well as the endocrine system, play a role in disease processes. There is unequivocal evidence that stress can increase the morbidity in many disorders; these include migrain, hypertension, impotence, angina, peptic ulcers, colitis and asthma. Similarly, stress may affect such skin diseases as psoriasis, acne vulgaris and eczema, which often have strong underlying psychogenic causes. (Engene, M. 1993).

It is common clinical experience that certain psychiatric patients have a defensive need to deny their psycho-pathology and seek dermatologic care for their prominent cutaneous symptoms,

the underlying psycho-pathology may be psychosis, obsessive compulsive disorder, depression or a personality disorder, anxiety may occur as a symptom in any one of these, particularly in childhood, anxiety may be the motivating force (Caroline, S.K. 1993).

It has long been recognized that psychosomatic factor play a role in dermatologic diseases (James, E.R. 1990).

AIM OF THE WORK

The aim of the work is to :

- 1- Evaluate for the psychological characters of some skin diseases which supposed to have psychiatric origin such as acne vulgaris, alopecia areata, atopic dermatitis, urticaria and psoriasis in children between 7 and 15 years.*
- 2- Research for the difference between this psychological characters in psychocutaneous patients and control group.*
- 3- Evaluate for the differences between males and females as regards these psychological characters.*

**REVIEW OF
LITERATURE**

SKIN AND PSYCHE

The Significance of the Human Skin :

The skin, being a highly complicated organ system performs a multitude of functions without which none of us could survive. Skin is considered the largest organ of the body and thus has the largest representation in the brain. It carries message to and from the brain and the spinal cord so that it appears that virtually everything that can be communicated to the central nervous system through the eyes and ears can be transmitted through the skin as well. In fact, the skin represents the external nervous system of which the central nervous system represents the internal part (Jones, 1992).

One of the skin's most important function is the transmission of the sense of touch. In an embryo, the first of the senses to develop is the sense of touch, long before ears or eyes development (Hooker, 1952). Touch has been called "the mother of the senses" because it is the first experience of reality from which knowledge of depth, thickness and form as well as a feeling of security is gained. It is also the humanizing sense which puts human beings in contact with each other. When they love their feeling is gentle, caressing and is expressed in intimate acts of body contact and when they hate, they often feel like inflicting bodily pain upon the disliked figure. Touch may replace the function of another sense which is the eye sight, for individuals who have either been born blind or have acquired blindness after having led a sighted life, become dependent upon touch for the recognition of objects in the external world. The fact

that touch remains the most alert of the senses during sleep, and is the first to recover fully on awakening is yet another evidence of the sensitivity of the skin (Montagu, 1978).

During infancy the skin remains the principle communication system for the new born in spite of the fact that he can see and hear quite well. The new born clearly understands the messages conveyed to him through the skin such as those he receives when he is held, cuddled or caressed and can discriminate from the manner in which he is held whether he is being held by a loving or an unloving person (Montagu, 1962).

Experimental studies to prove that inadequate tactile stimulation unfavourably affects the development of the individuals involved, were made on mice, rats, monkeys and men. The results were invariably the same in all species, they certify that not only is the behavioural development of such individuals affected but so is their physical growth, development, body resistance and general health for example in 1921 Hamet, of the Wistar Institute of Philadelphia, showed that on removal of their thyroid and parathyroid glands, gentled rats were able to survive almost six times as frequent as ungentled rats undergoing the same operation. In 1959 Weininger at the university of Toronto found that albino rats that had been gently handled were able to survive starvation beyond the period at which the ungentled rats died (Montagu, 1978).

Relation Between Skin and The Psyche

The term Psychosomatic is now a well recognized part of current medical terminology incorporated into every day language. The mind (psyche) and the body (soma) the two components of the term have for