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# NATURAL "PASSIVE" IMMUNITY AGAINST MEASLES AMONG EGYPTIAN INFANTS

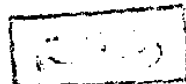
## *Thesis*

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# CONTENTS

	Page
<b>I- Introduction</b> .....	1
<b>II- Aim of the work</b> .....	3
<b>II- Review of literature :</b>	
A. Historical Review.....	4
B. Epidemiology .....	5
C. Measles Virus .....	11
D. Immunity to Measles .....	13
E. Pathogenesis.....	17
F. Clinical Picture and Differential Diagnosis .....	21
G. Complications of Measles .....	27
H. Laboratory Diagnosis .....	32
I. Treatment .....	35
J. Passive Natural Immunity.....	38
<b>K. Prevention:</b>	
* Immune - Serum Globulin .....	45
* Measles Vaccination :	
1. Measles vaccines .....	47
2. Immune Response to Vaccination .....	50
3. Vaccine Adminstration.....	51
4. Age of Vaccination.....	54
5. Adverse Reactions to Vaccination .....	59
6. Contraindications of Vaccination.....	60
7. Revaccination.....	62
8. Vaccine Failures.....	65
L. Eradication of Measles.....	68
<b>IV. Subject and Methods</b> .....	70
<b>V. Results</b> .....	76
<b>VI. Discussion</b> .....	100
<b>VII. Summary and Conclusion</b> .....	109
<b>VIII. Recommendations</b> .....	111
<b>IX. References</b> .....	112
<b>X. Arabic Summary</b> .....	

# LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Table (1): The sequence of measles viral infection in uncomplicated primary disease.....	18
Table (2): A guide to the differential diagnosis of measles.....	26
Table (3): Forms of pneumonia associated with measles.....	29
Table (4): Forms of involvement of the CNS in connection with measles.....	31
Table (5): Laboratory diagnosis of measles virus infections.....	33
Table (6): Summary of various data of both groups.....	77
Table (7): Comparison between group I and group II as regards the presence and absence of measles IgG antibody .....	78
Table (8): Comparison between group I and group II as regards the mean measles antibody titers.....	78
Table (9): Comparison between male and female infants in each of the groups studied regarding the presence and absence of measles IgG antibody.....	80
Table (10): Comparison between male and female infants in both groups regarding the mean measles antibody titers.....	80
Table (11): Comparison between breast and artificially fed infants in both groups regarding the presence and absence of measles IgG antibody.....	83
Table (12): Comparison between breast and artificially fed infants regarding the mean measles antibody titers.....	83

Table (13): Comparison between infant's of mothers who had natural measles and those with vaccinated mothers regarding the presence and absence of measles IgG antibody.....	86
Table (14): Comparison between infant's of mothers who had natural measles and those with vaccinated mothers as regards the mean measles antibody titers.....	86
Table (15): Comparison between the studied two age groups of mothers as regards the presence and absence of measles IgG antibody in their infants.....	88
Table (16): Comparison of infantile mean measles antibody titers in relation to their maternal age.....	88
Table (17) : Comparison between the studied two age groups of mothers regarding their source of immunity against measles.....	90
Table (18): Comparison between infants according to their order of birth as regards the presence and absence of measles IgG antibody.....	92
Table (19): Comparison between infants according to their birth order as regards the mean measles antibody titers.....	92
Table (20): Raw data of the studied infants.....	96

## LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Fig. (1): Morphology of measles virus.....	12
Fig. (2): Histogram showing % of seropositive and seronegative infants in each of the groups studied.....	79
Fig. (3): Histogram showing % of seropositive and seronegative infants according to sex.....	81
Fig. (4): Histogram showing % of seropositive and seronegative infants of both sexes in each of the groups studied.....	82
Fig. (5): Histogram showing % of seropositive and seronegative infants according to their feeding practice.....	84
Fig. (6): Histogram showing % of seropositive and seronegative infants in each group according to their feeding practice.....	85
Fig. (7): Histogram showing % of seropositive and seronegative infants according to the source of maternal immunity.....	87
Fig. (8): Histogram showing % of seropositive and seronegative infants according to the maternal ages.....	89
Fig. (9): Correlation between maternal age and infant's measles IgG antibody level.....	91
Fig. (10): Histogram showing % of seropositive and seronegative infants according to their order of birth.....	93
Fig. (11): Correlation between infant's weight and measles IgG antibody level.....	94
Fig. (12): Sharts of male and female children regarding their weight, length, head circumference in relation to age.....	95



## **ABBREVIATIONS**

AIDS	: Acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome
C.D.C.	: Centers for Disease Control
C.F.	: Complement fixation
C.N.S.	: Central nervous system.
C.S.F.	: Cerebro spinal fluid.
E.I.A.	: Enzyme immuno-assay.
E.L.I.S.A.	: Enzyme linked immuno-sorbent assay.
E.N.T.	: Enhanced nutralization.
E.P.I.	: Expanded Programme on Immunization.
E.U.	: ELISA Units.
E.Z.	: Edmonston Zagreb.
F.w.P.	: Four week periods.
H.A.I.	: Hemagglutination inhibition.
H.D.C.	: Humman diploid cell.
H.I.V.	: Human immuno-deficiency virus
Ig	: Immunoglobulin.
ISG	: Immune - serum globulin.
KMV	: Killed measles vaccine.
L.B.W.	: Low birth weight
M.M.R.	: Measles Mumps and Rubella
M.O.H.	: Ministry of Health
NT	: Nutralization
RNA	: Ribo nucleic acid.
SSPE	: Subacute sclerosing panencephalitis
Tc	: Tissue culture.
WHO	: World Health Organization

# **INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE WORK**



## INTRODUCTION

Measles is caused by a single stranded RNA virus of the "Paramyxovirus" group that is related to "Morbillivirus" genus (*Panum, 1940*).

It is a systemic disease, the primary site of infection is the respiratory epithelium of the nasopharynx. Two to three days after invasion and replication in the respiratory epithelium, there is a primary viremia with infection of the reticuloendothelial system. This is followed by secondary viremia which occurs 5 to 7 days after initial infection (*Bloch et al., 1985*).

Following an incubation period averaging 10 to 12 days, the patient typically develops a prodrome consisting of fever and malaise followed by cough, coryza and conjunctivitis. An enanthem, characterized by small bluish - white spots on a red background (Koplik's spots), may be seen on the buccal mucosa 2 days before to 2 days after onset of rash. The characteristic rash of measles usually appears 2-4 days after the onset of the prodromal symptoms (*Krugman et al., 1965*).

Measles can be diagnosed clinically by the characteristic rash and the prodromal symptoms. The disease is confirmed by documenting significant rise in antibody titre (*Norrby, 1988*).

In developing countries, measles is generally more severe and affects younger children than in developed countries. The average age at infection also differs between urban and rural areas. Crowding and more

frequent epidemics in urban areas lead to greater opportunity for exposure to measles in younger children (*Hyden, 1974*).

With the introduction of measles vaccine, many developing countries have had success in lowering morbidity and mortality from measles (*Henderson et al., 1988*).

Almost all infants acquire passive immunity against measles through transfer of (IgG) antibodies across the placenta. The age at which infants become susceptible varies owing to differences in transplacental transfer antibody and in rates of loss of antibody in different parts of the world (*Black et al., 1986*). In general, infants in developing countries lose antibody at younger age than those in developed countries (*Dahis et al., 1986*).

The problem of high morbidity and mortality in children younger than the recommended age for vaccination (9 months) has stimulated interest in developing strategies for vaccination of younger infants (*EPI, 1990*).

## **AIM OF THE WORK**

The aim of the present work is to evaluate the natural transplacental immunity against measles among Egyptian infants less than 9 months, through measurement of level of serum (IgG) antibody against measles in infants (5 - 6 months). This may enlight us about the optimal age for vaccination against this disease.

