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EVALUATION OF THE EFFICACY OF
ROUTINE MEASLES VACCINATION AMONG
CHILDREN IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

*Thesis submitted for partial fulfillment of
Master Degree of Public Health*



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Chapter (1)

Introduction

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Measles has been recognized as a disease for some 2000 years, but the infectious nature of the illness was not recognized until about 125 years ago (Gershon, 1990).

The clinical spectrum of measles ranges from a mild self limiting illness to a fatal disease (Aaby and Clements, 1989).

Infants acquire immunity transplacentally from mothers who had measles before. This maternal antibodies provide protection during the first four to six months of life and then disappear at a varying rate (Christie, 1987).

The occurrence of measles in recent years has been changed following the wide use of live attenuated vaccine. It has been characterized by the following:

- A gradual and consistent decline in incidence.
- The occurrence of measles is higher in the more populous districts.
- A shift in age-specific incidence from younger to older age groups (WHO, 1994).

Also, the previous studies had shown that crowding index, duration of breast feeding and age of measles vaccination had an effect on the modification of vaccine effectiveness (Harison et al., 1992), (UNICEF, 1993) and (WHO, 1994).

In Egypt despite high coverage with measles vaccine that reached up to 90%, there is still reported cases even among vaccinated children: such situation necessitate evaluation of the efficacy of the used vaccine (EPI, 1994).

Chapter (2)

Aim of the Work

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1. Evaluate the effectiveness of measles vaccination among children in primary schools at El Mataria district.
2. To study the trend of measles vaccine effectiveness among the studied children and elucidate possible reasons for such trend.

