Vitamin D Deficiency Rickets: Optimization of the Vitamin D Regimen in Relation to the Genetic Makeup

Thesis
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in Pediatrics

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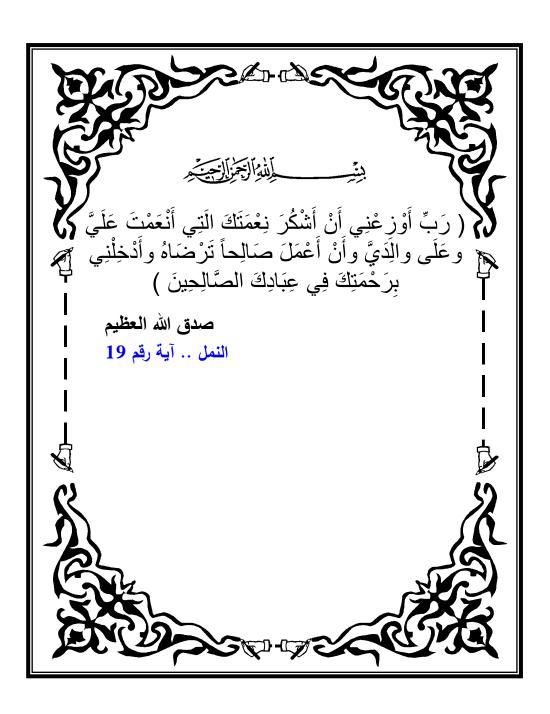
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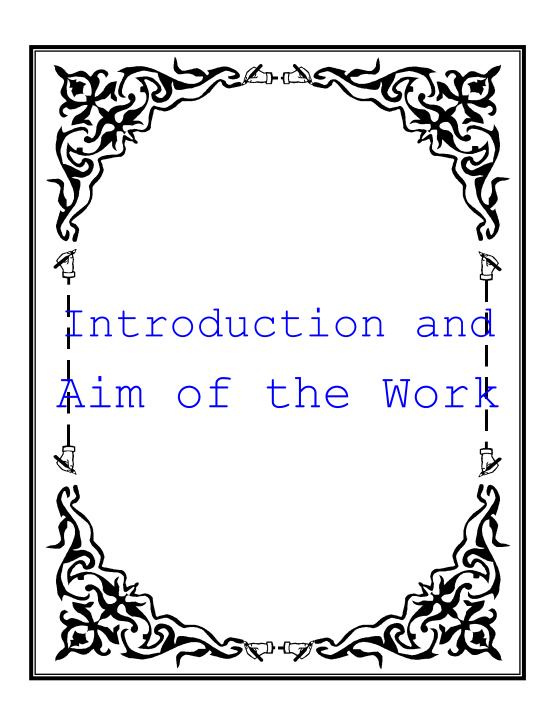
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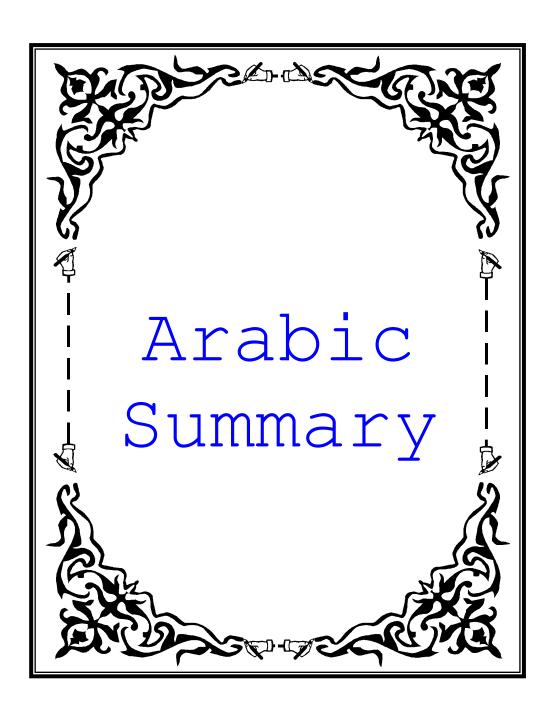
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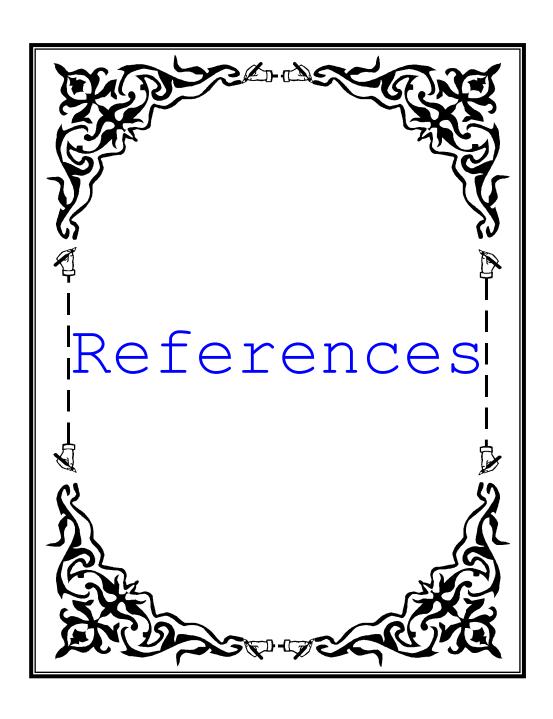
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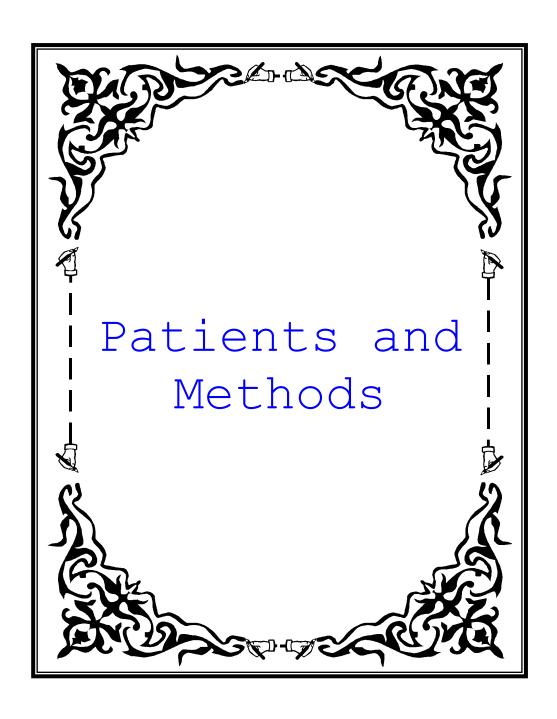




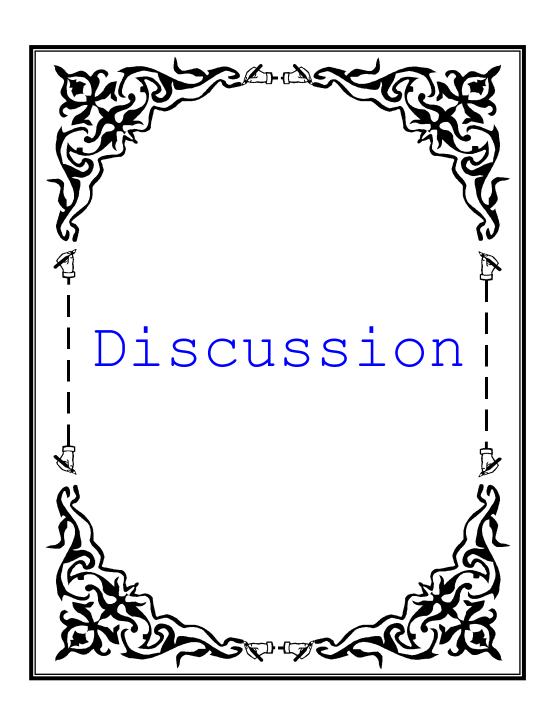


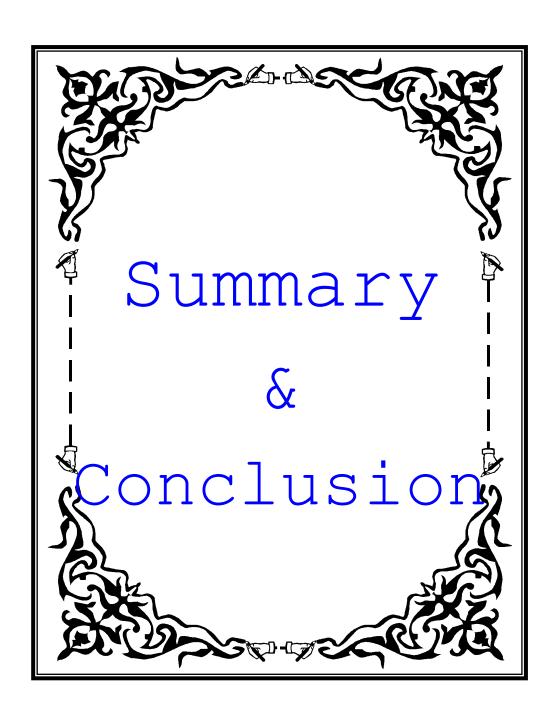


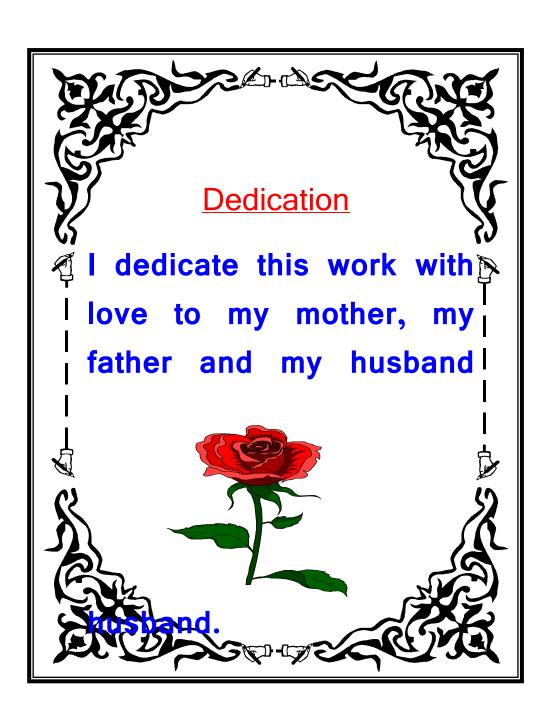














INTRODUCTION

Despite a shining sun all through the year and the dramatic decline in its prevalence in many developed countries, rickets is still prevalent in Egypt (Awwaad et al., 1975).

Vitamin D deficiency is widely assumed to be the primary cause of this disorder. Inadequate vitamin D acquisition through either poor dietary intake or limited sunlight exposure leads to depletion of vitamin D stores (*DeLucia et al.*, 2003).

On the other hand, relative resistance to vitamin D was suggested by an Egyptian study, demonstrating a need for 600,000 IU of vitamin D, repeated for three - four times, every three weeks to cure rickets (*Essawy et al.*,1992).

Vitamin D deficiency has again become an epidemic in children, and rickets has become a global health issue (*Holick*, 2006).

AIM OF THE WORK

This study aims at:

- 1. Optimizing the dose of vitamin D for a rapid healing of the biochemical and radiological rachitic bone disease.
- 2. Evaluation of the role of VDR polymorphisms in modifying the severity of rickets and in determining the response to therapy.
- 3. Elucidating the role of calcium deficiency as a cause of rickets in Egyptian children.
- 4. Evaluation of the role of calcium as a therapeutic approach for this form of rickets.