

# PREVALENCE OF BLOOD GROUPS IN TRIBALS OF SOUTH SUDAN

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**Summary :** Prevalence of ABO blood groups and Rhesus-factor in Southern Sudanese is shown in the Study. 42.81% were group A, group AB was the least common. Only 0.47% were negative for RH-factor.

## INTRODUCTION

It is now established that subjects with different blood groups differ in their susceptibility to many diseases (4) and also that frequency of blood groups differ in different geographical areas (2) and as such has to be worked out for every region.

As search of literature proved negative, a study of classical ABO as well as for Rh-factor was undertaken in the tribal belt of South Sudan.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

A total of 3205 patients (2875 males, 330 females) was randomly selected from local tribals attending Juba Teaching Hospital which is the apex Hospital in South Sudan, the area south of 13°N Latitude, without any reference to symptoms or diagnosis.

Blood group determination and Rh-antigen studies were done by standard methods (1). The period of study was August 1982 to May 1983.

## RESULTS

The results of ABO typing are shown in Table I. Almost all the cases were Rh-positive, only 15 (0.47%) were Rh-negative. 8 of these were of 'O' group, 4 belonged to 'A' and 3 to 'B' groups.

TABLE I : Prevalence of ABO blood groups among South Sudan population, Juba Teaching Hospital, 1983.

<i>Blood group</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>%</i>
O	1249	123	1372	42.81
A	950	129	1079	83.67
B	558	59	617	19.25
AB	118	19	137	4.27
Total	2875	330	3205	100.00

### DISCUSSION

There is a similarity in prevalence of 'O' and 'AB' groups in South Sudan with those reported from races as apart as Vietnam or Australian aborigines (3), but results with regard to 'A' and 'B' groups were different.

The extremely low prevalence of Rh-negativity is an interesting finding. The study will be continued to assess prevalence in different tribal groups, and also prevalence of subtypes.

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