

ANAEMIA IN HOSPITAL PATIENTS IN SOUTHERN SUDAN

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Summary : A random survey involving 1847 patients attending Juba Teaching Hospital irrespective of complaint revealed presence of anaemia in 79.53% of cases. The prevalence in children under 9 years was 94.83%.

Key words : anaemia

South Sudan

INTRODUCTION

As a part of total health survey of the South Sudan, an area south of 13°N latitude in Sudan, random patients attending Juba Teaching Hospital irrespective of complaint were screened for presence of anaemia, as it is generally recognized that anaemia is widely prevalent in tropical developing countries, and roughly parallels the nutritional status of the population.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The period during October 1982 to October 1983, a total of 1847 patients (674 males ; 996 females and 211 children below 9 years) were examined. None had been given any haematinic previously. Haemoglobin level of venous blood was estimated by using a spectro-photometer by Cyano haemoglobin method (Decie and Lewis, 1975).

Patients were classified as anaemic when haemoglobin level were Lower than 13 gm% for Males and 11.5 gm% for females and children (1).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results are shown in Tables I and II. Severe anaemia was more common in children, the women coming next. Anaemia was present in 67.95% of males and

84.60% of females according to criteria of Dacie and Lewis (1). The prevalence was highest in children with a figure of 94.92%.

TABLE I : Haemoglobin levels in blood of male patients, Juba Teaching Hospital (per cent prevalence).

Hb gm%	0-4.9	5-8.9	9-12.9	13+	Total patients
Male	6.53	26.85	34.57	32.05	674

TABLE II : Haemoglobin levels in blood of females and children, Juba Teaching Hospital (per cent prevalence).

Hb. gm%	0-4.9	5-8.9	9-11.4	11.5+	Total patients
Female	11.55	35.34	37.75	15.36	996
Children	29.38	33.33	32.20	5.09	177

The results in South Sudan are similar to that in West Africa noted by Woodruff and Schofield (5) and in East Africa by Rowland (3). It may be noted that this is associated with high prevalence of intestinal parasitic infestations (2,4) and also of malaria (4).

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