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CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION BY MANGROVE-DEPENDENT FISHING COMMUNITIES IN SOUTHERN CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Fishing is the traditional occupation of Nigeria's coastal communities. There is total dependence on wild caught fishes while aquaculture or fish farming is almost unknown. In addition to the numerous impacts of fishing on the ecosystem, mangroves are heavily exploited for fish processing and domestic energy needs. A survey was conducted in the fishing communities of two coastal States of Akwa Ibom and Cross River. The aim of this survey was to ascertain the communities' awareness of climate change, create awareness on the interrelationship of climate change impacts and coastal ecosystems, and to drive home the need for adaptation through alternative livelihood and sustainable mangrove exploitation. The changes in climatic conditions acknowledged by the local communities include irregular rainfall patterns, heavy runoff, flooding, sea level rise and increased storm surges. They also acknowledged depletion in capture fisheries output, and increased risks for fishing at estuary and coastal waters. To encourage the communities' adaptation to climate change, two pilot projects were introduced simultaneously in two communities of Cross River State, namely: fish farming as an alternative livelihood source, and locally fabricated fuel efficient wood stove aimed at minimizing mangrove deforestation for fish processing and other domestic energy needs. The position of this paper is that alternatives for energy and livelihood are necessary adaptation options for these coastal communities in the face of increasing climate change impacts.

Key words: Climate Change, Coastal Communities, Awareness Creation, Adaptation, Livelihood Options

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MARKER ASSISTED SELECTION FOR RHT8 AND RHT-D1B DWARFING GENES IN WINTER WHEAT BREEDING PROGRAM

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ABSTRACT

Plant height has been shown to reduce from 3.49 to 12.5% for Rht8 and 17 to 24 % for Rht-D1b in many studies. Several studies have indicated that yield increases from 3.8 to 12% for Rht8 and 16 to 30 % for Rht-D1b. Breeders can efficiently use this molecular information in their breeding programs by adding Rht8 and Rht-D1b alleles. Marker assisted selection is a useful molecular breeding method to improve the efficiency and precision of conventional plant breeding, which were used to determine Rht8 and Rht-D1b alleles in 49 lines in F2 generation and the 4 parents Yellowstone, NE01533, Pelsart, Promontory. This research was conducted in Spring Wheat Genetic Lab of Montana State University. Presence of the Rht8 dwarfing gene was determined by genotyping alleles at the GWM261F and GWM261R microsatellite markers locus chromosomally linked to Rht8. DF-MR2 detects mutant Rht-D1b dwarfing allele. This research showed that parent NE01533 and 20 lines in F2 generation had Rht-D1b dwarfing gene while 18 lines in F2 generation had Rht8 dwarfing gene.

Keywords: Breeding; Marker assisted selection, Rht8, Rht-D1b, dwarfing genes

MARKER ASSISTED SELECTION FOR PHOTOPERIOD INSENSITIVE PPD-D1A ALLELE IN WINTER WHEAT BREEDING PROGRAM

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted in Spring Wheat Lab of Montana State University. Marker assisted selection is a useful molecular breeding method to improve the efficiency and precision of conventional plant breeding, which are used to determine Ppd-D1a allele in 49 lines in F₂ generation and the 4 parents Yellowstone, NE01533, Pelsart and Promontory. The alleles of all the parents and lines in F₂ were determined through MAS. Breeders can efficiently use this molecular information in their breeding programs by adding and removing photoperiod insensitive Ppd-D1a alleles to their varieties. In hexaploid wheat, photoperiod insensitive Ppd-D1a allele in 2D chromosome causes early flowering in short day length and long day length, avoiding stresses associated with high temperature and water deficit in grain filling stages. This study shows that the parents NE01533, Pelsart, Promontory and the 47 lines in F₂ generation have the Ppd-D1a allele while Yellowstone and the remaining lines are photoperiod sensitive.

Key words: Breeding, Marker Assisted Selection, Ppd-D1a allele

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DETERMINATION OF PAH AND BTEX LEVELS IN WATER SAMPLES OF PATOKU LAGOON

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ABSTRACT

This study presented data about concentrations of BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and o-, m-, p-xylenes) and PAHs (poly aromatic hydrocarbons) in water samples of Patoku Lagoon. Fifteen water samples were taken in different stations of lagoon and five samples in Mati River in November 2014. Headspace solid phase micro extraction (HS-SPME) technique was used to trace BTEX in water samples. For isolation of PAHs in water samples liquid-liquid extraction (assisted with hexane as extraction solvent) were used. 5 L water samples were taken for each stations of Patoku Lagoon. The qualitative and quantitative analysis of BTEX and PAHs in water samples was performed by gas chromatography technique using flame ionization detector (GC/FID). Injections of BTEX were done in Head-Space mode using polydimethyl siloxane fiber. 1 ul extract in hexane (extracting solvent) were injected for PAHs analyses. VF-1ms capillary column (30m x 0.25mm x 0.25um) was used for separation of BTEX and PAH compounds. Relatively high concentrations of MTBE and some volatile PAH compounds were detected in water and sediment samples of Patoku Lagoon and Mati River. The presence of volatile organic pollutants could be mostly of automobilist transport near the lagoon, water currents and discharge of industrial wastes in Mati River.

Keywords: PAH; BTEX; HS-SPME; GC/FID; Water analyze; Patoku Lagoon; Mati River

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PREVALENCE OF ANEMIA IN THE SCHOOL CHILDREN

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ABSTRACT

Anaemia in childhood is defined as a haemoglobin (Hb) concentration below established cut-off levels. These levels vary depending on the age of the child and on the laboratory in which the blood sample is tested. The aim of the study was to estimate the prevalence of anemia among school children aged 7-14 years from the districts of Vlora, Fier and Lushnje in Albania. The study was carried out from 2012 to 2014. A total of 224 pupils participated in the study. The study showed that the overall prevalence of anemia among children in the age between 7 and 14 years was 21%. The highest prevalence of anemia was present in the age group of the ninth year for both the sexes and the minimum frequency was in the age group of the tenth year in the girls and the 13 year for boys. The prevalence of anemia was very much higher in girls when compared to boys during between the age of 8 and 14 years. The anemia was graded according to WHO standards. It showed that 21% of girls were mildly anemic, 4% were moderately anemic and there were no severely anemic children diagnosed. As iron deficiency is the most common cause of childhood anaemia in the world, the main focus for prevention of this needs to be on education around childhood nutrition. Routine health assessments of children and adolescents, dietary counseling, and assessment of risks are components of primary prevention of iron deficiency.

Key words: anemia, childhood, iron deficiency

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THE ROLE OF SUBCUTANEOUS IMMUNOTHERAPY IN RESPIRATORY ALLERGIC PATIENTS: AN ALBANIAN SURVEY

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ABSTRACT

Allergic conjunctivitis (AC), rhinitis (AR), and bronchial asthma (BA) are allergic IgE-mediated pathologies, while their management consists on pharmacological treatment and specific immunotherapy (SIT). This study aims to evaluate clinical symptoms and monitor maintenance treatment of patients during. Subjects with AC, AR, or/and BA who initiated subcutaneous SIT during period 2008-2012 (Lofarma, Italy) are monitored along 3 years. A questionnaire that comprised a clinical score for relative symptoms and maintenance medicaments is filled out by every patient at beginning of SIT, as well as 1 and 3 years later (0 – absent, 4 – maximal expression of symptom; yes/no answer for treatment with a subclass medication). Data are shown in average (\pm SE), and comparisons are undergone due to t Student and Fisher exact. $P < 0.05$ was considered as significant. Study data demonstrated that both symptoms score and medicaments need were significantly reduced in the majority of cases during the first SIT, independently to allergen type or pathology. Oral glucocorticoids were completely eliminated from the treatment within the first year, whereas antihistamines were the mostly used during the SIT. In summary, this study demonstrates that symptom score and medication monitoring can be useful in the evaluation of SIT efficacy.

Key-words: specific immunotherapy, allergic conjunctivitis, allergic rhinitis, bronchial asthma, symptom score, medication monitoring.

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EXPERIMENTAL MEASUREMENT OF THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY OF COMMONLY USED WOOD SPECIES IN ALBANIA

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ABSTRACT

The uses of wood and wood based materials in everyday life ranging from domestic to industrial applications had called for renewed updating of the information on various thermal properties of the materials at different stages [Samuel, 2012]. The thermal conductivity of 10 wood species commonly used in wood industry in Albania were calculated analytically, numerically and experimentally by using Phywe apparatus and the results were compared. The experimental thermal conductivity measurements were conducted using the hot box method based on steady-state heat transfer. Within an interval of time, the thermal agitation in the samples increases as the temperature increases, after which thermal stability was attained. The thermal agitation is seen to be more prominent during the rising temperature than at the falling temperature. All samples attained stability after about 100 minutes of continuous agitation during the rising temperature and much faster at the falling temperature. The results allow to conclude that the higher density of wood, material exhibit a higher thermal conductivity by a linear equation for the temperature interval from 20°C to 70 °C . In addition, the values (0.068 to 0.115 W m⁻¹K⁻¹) obtained for the samples fall within the general standard range of conductivity (0,038 to 0,1 W m⁻¹K⁻¹) for wood materials [Hrčka et al, 2011, 2012], [Kiran et al., 2012] within approximately 8% accuracy of the test method.

Keywords: thermal conductivity of woods, steady state method, Phywe apparatus

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A NEW TREND ON ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS (EMF) RISK ASSESSMENT

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ABSTRACT

Both biological and sanitary effects of EMF radiations – from the extremely low frequency magnetic fields (ELF/EMF) to the high and very high radiofrequencies (RF/EMF) – are clearly established and occur even at very low exposure levels. Overall, there are now almost 4.000 experimental studies that report a variety of short and medium-term effects of EMF, which support the biological plausibility of the increased risks of their long-term genotoxic, carcinogenic and neurodegenerative consequences on exposed human populations. Existing FCC and ICNIRP public safety limits are not sufficiently protective of public health, in particular for the young subjects - embryos, fetuses, neonates, very young children – and for those which are exposed to extremely high ELF and RF/EMF levels. Sufficient evidence comes from epidemiological studies of an increased risk from exposure to EMF of adverse acute effects and even long-term carcinogenic effects that cannot be attributed to chance, bias or confounding. Therefore, according to the rules of IARC, such exposures can be classified at least as Group 2 “probable carcinogenic agents for humans”.

Keywords: Electromagnetic fields, risk assessment, health effects.

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STUDY OF IMPACT LAND COVER WITH VEGETATION (*Tr.alexandrinum* L.) AND ITS MULCHING ON AGRICULTURE SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS

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ABSTRACT

In order to increase the sustainability of agricultural farm and to insure it as a sustainable system meaning to manage it in respect of the environment, it needs to be recognized the role that the various components play which enhance the internal biodiversity of agricultural system. The choices that we make for the management of agricultural systems should be oriented toward increasing the level of sustainability, which is directly depended from the level of biodiversity that we carry in the system. Simplifying that conventional agricultural system has suffered such as planting a few species selected by human, chemical control of insects, fungies and bacterias by means of pesticides; spontaneous drug control through herbicides; maintaining soil fertility through chemical fertilizers have reduced to a minimum level the internal biodiversity of system, and for consequence its sustainability. We must turn the agricultural farm in a system that should be able to manage itself and essential for this purpose is the presence of internal farm biodiversity which performs a number of useful functions such as; improves the farm microclimate, limits the soil erosion, allows the development of beneficial insects populations, affects a rapid recycling of organic matter; improves the esthetic aspect of farm landscape etc. Covering of land by vegetation and mulching are successful practices that increase diversity, consequently and the sustainability of agricultural systems. Precisely covering the land by vegetation (*Trifolium alexandrinum* L.) in orchard and through mulching practices with vegetable materials, have been the subject of this research performed in EDE of Agricultural University, to see their effects on agro-ecosystems.

Key words: agricultural farms, agro-ekosystem, biodiversity, sustainability, mulching

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PRELIMINARY DATA ON THE ASSESSMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONSIDERATIONS IN CURRICULA OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

This study presents the preliminary data of the assessment regarding the level of consideration of environmental education into the curricula of the preliminary and secondary education in Albania. Education for sustainable development, promoting Sustainable Development Goals 2016-2030 should orient the education system towards the process, which offers students knowledge, skills and behaviors patterns for being active and informed citizens, responsible for a sustainable environment, economy and society. In the new and reformed curricula, this education is considered as crosscurricular subject, supporting students to understand the complex challenges such as climate changes, inequalities and poverty. The objective of this study is the assessment of the role of the education for sustainable development in the education programs and teaching books of the elementary and secondary education in Albania. It aims at evaluating the way how the environmental topics are presented, the level of inclusion and integration of the environmental concepts, the extend of terminology and knowledge in the school books. There are 86 curricula programs and respective schools books analyses in both levels of the education, aiming at establishing a baseline for further comparative studies. The school texts play an important role in the environmental education, but only a small part of them contain teaching hours on environmental themes in full pedagogical apparatus: information based, figures and exercises.

Key words: Education for sustainable development, crosscurricular subject, curricular programs, environmental issues.

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AN EXAMINATION OF THE PERCEIVED LEADERSHIP STYLES OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS PRINCIPALS AS DETERMINATES OF TEACHER JOB SATISFACTION

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to determine if there is a relationship between principal leadership style and teacher job satisfaction. In the study participated 251 teachers and 9 principals of Shkodra's private schools. In this, study, leadership style, as perceived by the teachers, was the independent variable and teacher job satisfaction was the dependent variable. This study found that the leadership style, telling, tended to have higher levels of teacher job satisfaction in the areas of supervision, contingent rewards, operating conditions, communication, total job satisfaction and style adaptably. Principals with 7-10 years of principal experiences tended to have higher levels of teacher job satisfaction rather than principals with over than 5 years of experience. Differences in age, gender and highest degree earned were not found to be statistically significant.

Key words: examination, leadership styles, private schools, teacher job, satisfaction

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THE EFFECT OF ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCES ON HUMAN AGGRESSION

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ABSTRACT

Over the years the use of alcohol and its relation to the subsequent violent behavior that ensues has been very apparent. Alcohol and drug use can exacerbate the psychopathology in other psychiatric disorders and can cause violence in persons with no other psychiatric disorder. The objective of this study was to assess the association of violent behavior with alcohol and substance abuse in order to improve assessment, management and treatment of patients with violent behavior, accompanied with alcohol and substance abuse in the psychiatric ward. Two hundred thirty six patients were included in the study. 159 (67%) were males and 77 (33%) females. The mean age of patients was 41.5 (± 22.4) vjeç. 32 (20%) of males and 12 (16%) of female admitted to our service had reported alcohol consumption and substance abuse. As a result of the sub-sample analysis with a history of abuse (alcohol or substance) 29 (66%) [95%CI 50.2 – 79.6] of 44 patients had episodes featuring violence $p < 0.01$. The predominant types of violence is verbal (59%), with the following physical (27%) and destructive to only 14% of this sub-sample, $p < 0.01$. Violent behavior and association with alcohol abuse or other substance is a common problem in emergency psychiatry. Assessment, diagnosis, management and treatment of this symbiosis is very difficult. Such an association affects the severity of symptoms of mental illness, progress and prognosis.

Keywords: violence, aggression, risk factors, agitation, crime, hostility, stigma

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TUBERCULOSIS (TB) IN THE POPULATION WITH HIV INFECTION, 2012-2014

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ABSTRACT

HIV and TB remains a public health problem in many parts of the world. Tuberculosis remains a serious threat, especially for people living with HIV. The aim of the study was to evaluate the presence of TB among patients with HIV infection during the period of time 2012-2014. This was a descriptive study. Evaluating patients' files with HIV infection followed at the Outpatient Clinic for HIV/AIDS, part of Infectious Service, University Hospital Center "Mother Teresa", Tirana, Albania, during the period of time 2012-2014. From 298 patients infected with HIV, we included 13 patients with co-infection HIV/TB. We have evaluated the epidemiological data of TB patients encountered in HIV/AIDS. Data were subjected to descriptive and correlation analysis. Simple percentages, tables and graphs were used to present the results. Of the 298 patients infected with HIV, 13 were co-infected with HIV and TB. The level of TB among patients with HIV infection was 4.36 % (13/298). 76.9 % (10/13) had pulmonary TB and 23,1% (3/13) had extra pulmonary TB and 61.5% (8/13) reported sputum positivity for acid fast bacilli. 69% (9/13) of co-infected patients are on ART. By gender, TB in patients with HIV infection was 7.7 % among females and 92.3% among males. Specific weight of mortality in patients with HIV/TB co-infection during the period of time, 2012-2014 was 53.8 % (7cases out of 13cases in total). Death rates among co-infected patients were high as HIV positive patients. The most affected age was 35-50 years old. The presence of TB in HIV-infected patients increases morbidity and mortality. Death rates among co-infected patients were high as HIV positive patients.

Keywords: HIV; TB; co-infection.

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THE PREVALENCE OF THE NUMBER OF SKIN DISEASES IN PATIENTS WITH DIABETES IN HEALTH CARE CLINICS IN TIRANA DURING 2014

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ABSTRACT

Skin pathologies are posing a growing concern among patients with diabetes. Putting the emphasis on the high pace at which are increasing cases of patients with diabetes globally, the main role in this increase seems to play socio-demographic factors and lifestyle. High level of glycated hemoglobin (HbA1C), triglycerides and cholesterol clearly reflects the low level of control and diabetes patients management affected by this medical condition. Also attention should be given even greater body mass index (BMI) of patients with diabetes because of the high obesity increases the risk for health complications fairly and early mortality among diabetics patients.

Key words: prevalence, patients, diabetes health care

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EPILEPSY IN CHILDREN: AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY AT DISTRICT OF KORÇA AND DEVOLL

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ABSTRACT

To analyze the relative frequencies of various epileptic seizures and to study the age at onset of different seizure types in Korça and Devoll children. This is a prospective study. Hospital outpatient based in Korça, between March 2011 to July 2013. In the study participated 76 children diagnosed as epilepsy excluding neonatal and febrile seizures. Diagnosis and classification of cases according to the International Classification of Epilepsy of the International League Against Epilepsy [ILAE] and number of patients in each category with different ages at first seizure. Generalized seizures (53%), were most frequent than partial seizures (47%). Most frequent seizure types were partial with secondary generalization seizures (22.3%), complex partial (5%), tonic (14.41%), clonic 3.94%, atonic (9.2%) and absence (3.93%). In 47% cases the first seizure occurred when aged between 2-5 years. In partial seizures the peak age at onset was observed below 10 years while primary generalized seizure was more frequently seen in age group 2-5 years. More paediatric patients with primary generalized seizures (53%) were observed than with partial seizures (47%). In this age group, the most frequent seizure type was partial with secondary generalization (22.3%) with the peak frequency of age at onset of seizures in 2-5 years.

Key words: Epilepsy, Frequency, Age at onset.

THE IMPORTANCE OF APPROPRIATE AREA PLANNING AND GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN GROWING ORNAMENTAL PLANTS IN TURKEY

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ABSTRACT

Information technology is a fast growing sector gaining a large commercial share in today's developing world. The ornamental plants sector benefits from technology to a great extent. Geographical Information Systems (GIS), used mainly in the management of location based information, is also an important tool in terms of determining appropriate production areas for outdoor ornamental plants, bulbous plants, and cut flower sector. Today, the growing demand for ornamental plants has increased the need for new facilities. The selection of greenhouse area and nursery facilities has an important part among the planned facilities. The organizations today lacking technology based foundations do not look promising in terms of continuity and sustainability. Therefore, it is an important consequence that the ornamental plants facilities structured without a plan will adversely affect both plant growing process and meeting the demand in the region. This study investigated the importance of GIS (Geographical Information Systems) in ornamental plants sector and the criteria that can be used in GIS, and it intended to guide future research.

Key words: GIS, Outdoor ornamental plants, Ornamental plants sector

DETERMINATION OF SOME CHLORINATED POLLUTANTS IN FISH SAMPLES OF PATOKU LAGOON

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ABSTRACT

In this study are presented concentrations of organochlorine pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), in ten fish samples of Patoku Lagoon. Fish samples were taken in November 2014. For isolation of organochlorine pesticides and PCBs from biota samples of Patoku Lagoon, ultrasonic bath extractions (assisted with Hexane/Dichlormethane 3/1 as extraction solvent), were used. 10 g fresh fish samples were taken for analyzes. Clean-up procedure was performed by using firstly silicagel with 45% sulphuric acid and finally an "open" florisil column for clean-up procedure. Analysis of organochlorinated pesticides and PCBs were realized in simultaneously in Rtx-5 capillary column (30m x 0.32mm x 0.25µm). HP 6890 Series II, gas chromatograph equipped with µECD detector was used for this study. The organochlorine pesticides detected were HCHs (a-, b-, γ- and d-isomers), and the DDT-related chemicals (o,p-DDE, p,p-DDE, p,p-DDD, p,p-DDT), hexachlorobenzene (HCB), Heptachlor, Heptachlorepoxyde, Aldrine, Dieldrine, Endrine, Methoxychlor and Mirex. Seven PCB markers were analyzed for evaluation of PCB concentrations in fish samples. For all fish samples were found concentrations in higher levels for pesticide residues and their metabolites and volatile PCB markers. These data could be because use of pesticides in adjacent agricultural areas near Patoku Lagoon. Water currents, atmospheric impact, stability of pollutants could be factors that affect pollution in Patoku Lagoon.

Keywords: Organochlorine pesticides; PCBs; Biota analyze; Patoku Lagoon; Gas Chromatography.

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NEZELOF SYNDROME IN A TERTIARY HOSPITAL, A CASE REPORT

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ABSTRACT

Nezelof's syndrome is a congenital immunodeficiency disease. It is due to underdevelopment of thymus gland. Thymus gland is a lymphoid organ situated behind the sternum, in the superior mediastinum. It forms an important organ of adaptive immune system. Thymus produces T cells [T lymphocytes] and B cells [B lymphocytes] which form integral part of adaptive immunity. Nezelof's syndrome is caused as a result of underdevelopment of thymus gland. The condition produces several infections. Malignancies occur. Chronic pulmonary infections occur. Several other infections include oral and cutaneous candidiasis, chronic diarrhea, skin infection, urinary tract infection, gram-negative sepsis, severe progressive varicella infection. Medical history by the patient and Clinical examination by the doctor helps in diagnosis. Several blood tests are required to be done to detect T cell, B cell count. Genetic testing is recommended. Imaging studies such as X ray, USG, CT scan, and MRI may be useful for the evaluation of associated abnormalities. No specific treatment is available. Antimicrobial therapy is helpful. Immunoglobulin therapy is also sometimes helpful which consists of receiving antibodies, or immunoglobulins from a donor's plasma. Treatment involves transplant of thymus tissue from a donor. Bone marrow transplant may be required. Recurrent infections should be treated symptomatically. Complications such as pulmonary infections, malignancies, less life expectancy can occur.

Key words: Nezelof's syndrome, immunodeficiency disease, congenital