



IAMRS

IRAQI ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL RESEARCH & STUDIES

1st IAMRS MEDICAL CONFERENCE GUIDE

Committees, Sessions and Abstracts

6-7, APRIL, 2018

IRAQ, BASRAH INTERNATIONAL HOTEL



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**Iraqi Association of Medical
Research and Studies
(IAMRS)**

**The 1st IAMRS Medical
Conference**

The Scientific Committee

**Committees, Sessions and
Abstracts**

**Basrah International Hotel
Basrah, April 6-7, 2018**

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Seeking reality is beyond the ability of any human being to achieve but reaching a truth is possible with scientific dedicated search and exploration. This is true in the domain of health, health care and disease. We never be able to understand everything around our health and life, yet man never stops to search for unexplored to find a truth that help better understand what surrounds life. Scientific research in one sense is a systematic process to solve problems. It either aims at adding new knowledge (basic research) or it aims at identifying means to apply knowledge (applied research). A recent concept is “research and development” which implies a continuous process of problem identification, analysis, formulation of proposed solution and implementation of such solution The Iraqi Association for Medical Research and Studies (IAMRS) is only one step on the pathway is very happy to initiate its long envisaged work with helping truth through the encouragement of scientific research. At the moment we planned for this conference we were a bit worry about the response to the new starting scientific group. However, once we declared our intention to organize this conference the response from our colleagues was immense. We are very happy to provide a forum for researchers to contribute to the best of health and life of the population. A starting step might be difficult but definitely to keep on pace is more difficult. We inspire and hope to be on the track in the best we would be in the future.

Dr. Hayder Al-Tameemi
President of IAMRS
April 2018

Conference committees

Chairman of the Conference

Dr. Hayder Al Tameemi

<i>Organizational Committee</i>	<i>Scientific Committee</i>
Dr. Basim A Abdulhassan	Professor Omran S Habib
Dr. Sadik H Kadhem	Professor Abbas Ali Mansour
Dr. Wael J Hassan	Professor Meaad K Hassan
Dr. Ahmad F Hassan	Professor Khalil I Al-Hamdy
Dr. Amer S Dawood	Professor Mazin Hawaz Al-Hawaz
Dr. Durgham A Abdulwahid	Professor Abdullah M Jawad
Dr. Amjed H Ali	Professor Mohammed H Al-Jawher
Dr. Ahmed N Abood	Consultant Dr. Mustaq C. Abul-Hail
Dr. Nabeel S Khudaier	Consultant Dr. Falih M Ali
Dr. Mohammed B Abbas	Professor Janan G Hassan
Dr. Wissam J Yessir	Professor Fuad H Al-Dahhan
Dr. Ibraheem A Zebon	Assist. prof. Nazar S Haddad
Dr. Hisham S Abdulkareem	Assist. prof. Mubder A.Mohammed Saeed
Dr. Salih Muther	Assist. Prof. Abdul-Ameer A Al-Amery
Dr. Ahmed Jaafer	
<i>Financial committee</i>	
Dr. Zuhair Abdulkareem	
Dr. Ussama M Maki	
Dr. Durgham A Abdulwahid	

Opening ceremony

Place: Basrah International Hotel

Avenue: Al-Faraheedi Hall

Time: Friday April 6, 2018, (7.00-8.10 PM)

Time	Event	Speaker
7.00 - 7.02	Welcome	
7.03 – 7.08	The Holy Quran	
7.09 – 7.10	National Anthem	
7.11 – 7.15	IAMRS Speech	Dr. Hayder Al-Tameemi
7.16 – 7.20	Ministry of Health Talk	Dr. Zamil Aluraiby
7.21 – 7.25	Basrah University Talk	Prof. Thamer A. Hamdan
7.26 – 7.30	Basrah Health Directorate Talk	Dr. Riyadh AH Al-Hilfi
7.31 – 7.35	Iraqi Medical Association Talk	Dr. Abdulamir Alshimary
7.36 – 7.40	Chant	
7.41 – 7.48	IAMRS Short Film	
7.49 – 8.04	Medical Education, Facts & Needs	Dr. Helal Alsaffar
8.05 – 8.15	Medical Education Council in Iraq (MECI) Prospective	Dr. Jawad Alshareef
8.16 – 8.20	Siemens Healthineers Talk (Platinum Sponsor)	
8.20	Dinner	

Scientific Sessions

Session One: Saturday April 7, 2018 (9.00 am-11.00 pm)

Main Theme: A. Scientific Research (4 presentations)

B. Selected Speakers (5 presentations)

Hall: Al-Faraheedi Main Hall (**Ground Floor**)

Chair: Abdullah M Jawad, Mubder A.Mohammed Saeed, Murtada M Salih

Sub-session A		
Time	Presentation title	Speaker(s)
9.00 - 9.12	Common Pitfalls in Scientific Research	Abdullah M Jawad
9.13 -9.22	Writing a Paper for Publication	Majid Alabbood
9.23 - 9.32	Plagiarism in Research	Jawad H Ahmed
9.33 - 9.42	How to Increase Your Papers Citation and H Index	Naser Ghaly
9.43 – 9.50	Guided Discussion	All
Sub-session B		
Time	Presentation title	Speaker(s)
9.51 - 10.00	Unexplained Syncope, Cardiac Arrhythmic Etiologies	Amar T. Alhamdi
10.01 - 10.10	Histopathological Observations on <i>Plasmodium vinckevinckei</i> Infection in Protein-malnourished Mice.	Nadham K. Mahdi Al-Adday
10.11 - 10.20	Hospital Treated Head Injury in Basrah: clinical and Epidemiological Aspects	Wisam Abdullah Jasim
10.21 - 10.30	Trans Oral Endoscopic Thyroidectomy Vestibular Approach(TOETVA). A Case Report as a New Procedure In Iraq	Sadiq Ghaleb Kadem,
10.31-10.40	Thromboprophylaxis in Women with Unexplained Consecutive Recurrent Miscarriage	Maysoon S Flaifil
10.41 – 10.50	Guided Discussion	All

Dear Speakers, please use your allocated time 8-10 minutes only

Session Two (Parallel): **Saturday** April 7, 2018 (9.00-11.00 am)

Main Theme: **Haemoglobinopathies**

Hall: Al-Asmak Hall (Fifth Floor)

Chair: Lamia M Alnaama, Meaad K Hassan

Time	Presentation title	Speaker(s)
9.00 - 9.20	Haemoglobinopathies in Iraq; Current Situation and Future Perspectives	Meaad K Hassan
9.21 - 9.30	Selected Immunological Markers in Patients with Sickle Cell Disease in Basrah	Sadeq K. Ali Al-Salait
9.31 - 9.40	Laser Trapping for Studying the Effect of Hydroxyurea on Deformability of Sickle Red Blood Cells	Asaad A Khalaf
9.41 - 9.50	HLA Alloimmunization in Multiply Transfused β -Thalassemia Patients in Basrah	Ilham M Abdulridha
9.51 - 10.00	Prevalence of Cardiac Dysfunction Among Thalassemic Patients in Babylon Governorate.	Ahmed Shemran Metlaq Alwataify
10.01 - 10.10	Cholelithiasis in Children 16 Years and below in Basrah: Epidemiological and Clinical Study	Abbas Abdulzahra Alhasani
10.11 - 10.20	Management of Avascular Necrosis of Femoral head in Sickler Patients by Core Decompression and Stem Cells Injection	Waleed Ali
10.21 - 10.30	Measurement of F Cells in Sickle Cell Anaemia and Trait by Flow Cytometry – Comparison with the Kleihauer- Betke's Slide Method.	Ala'a A.Razak Abood
10.31-10.40	Presentation	AlmamoraH Co. (Gold Sponsor)
10.41-10.50	Guided Discussion	All

Dear Speakers, please use your allocated time 8-10 minutes only

10.51- 11.10 – Break

During the break refreshment will be provided plus other activities and observations may be arranged



Session Three: Saturday April 7, 2018 (11.11 am-1.10 pm)

Main Theme: Cancer epidemiology and practice

Hall: Al-Faraheedi Main Hall (Ground Floor)

Chair: Jawad K Al-Ali, Narjis A Ajeel, Ramadhan Alsharae

Time	Presentation title	Speaker(s)
11.11-11.30	Cancer Registration in Basrah: Building up, Outcome and Sustainability	Riyadh A Hussein Al-Hilfi, Omran S Habib
11.31-11.40	Pattern of Neuroblastoma Among Children in Basrah Pediatric Oncology Center	Janan G. Hasan,
11.41-11.50	Paraffin Embedded Marrow Clot Sections as an Adjuvant Procedure in the Diagnosis of Bone Marrow Diseases.	Jasim M A Al-Diab
11.51-12.00	Estimation of Serum Beta 2- microglobulin Among Newly Diagnosed Children with Cancer in Basra	Ahmed Mohsin Aziz
12.1-12.10	Clinical and Pathological Profile of Young Age Iraqi Females Diagnosed with Breast Cancer (an Observational Study)	Shaymaa Mohammed Radhi
12.11-12.20	Ototoxicity in Cancer Patients on Cisplatin Therapy Attending Basrah Oncology Centre: A Cohort Study	Hassanin M Al-Ali
12.21-12.30	Polymorphism of <i>BRAF</i> Gene in Colorectal Cancer (CRC) of Iraq Patients	Estabraq AR Al-Wasiti
12.31-12.40	The Role of MMP-9 in Breast Cancer: A Comparative Study in Basrah and Baku	Ghalib Noori Nasr Jawad K Al-Ali
12.41-12.50	A molecular signature of dormancy in CD34+CD38- acute myeloid leukaemia cells	Mazin Gh. Al-Asadi
12.51-1.00	Latest Technology in PET-CT & Cyclotron	Siemens Healthineers (Platinum Sponsor)
1.00 – 1.10	Guided Discussion	All

Dear Speakers, please use your allocated time 8-10 minutes only

Session Four (Parallel) Saturday April 7, 2018 (11.11 am-1.10 pm)

Main Theme: Diabetes and other endocrine issues

Hall: Al-Asmak Hall (Fifth Floor)

Chair: Abbas Ali Mansour, Moaied A Hassan, Ali H Ali

Time	Presentation title	Speaker(s)
11.11-11.30	Degree of Diabetes Control. Tertiary Care Experience from Basrah Over Ten Years	Abbas Ali Mansour. FDEMC Study Group
11.31-11.40	The Prevalence of Undiagnosed Liver Fibrosis and Cirrhosis in Patients with Diabetes Mellitus	Laith K Al Rubaiy
11.41-11.50	Epidemiology of Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus in Basrah, Southern Iraq: A Retrospective Study	Dhaigham Almahfoodh FDEMC Study Group
11.51-12.00	Patterns of Age, Gender, and Body Mass Index in the Newly Diagnosed Patients with Type 1 and 2 Diabetes Mellitus in Basrah: A Retrospective Database Study	Haider Ayad Alidrisi FDEMC Study Group
12.1-12.10	Spectrum of Thyroid Abnormalities Among Pregnant Women in Basrah	Ammar Mohammed Saeed Almomin FDEMC Study Group
12.11-12.20	Thyroid Peroxidase Antibodies in Type 1 Diabetes in Basrah : a Retrospective Study.	Nassar Taha Yassen FDEMC Study Group
12.21-12.30	Assessment the Outcome of Diabetic Foot Ulcers in Basrah	Abdulhussein K. Marzoq
12.31-12.40	Bariatric Surgery (Metabolic Surgery) in Patients with Type 2 DM. An Experience from Basrah	Falih AlGazgooz
12.41-12.50	Faiha Specialized Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolism Center: First Audit of People with Type 1 Diabetes in Basrah, Southern Iraq	Majid AlAbbood FDEMC Study Group
12.51-1.00	The Development of Local Pharmaceutical Industries	Pioneer Co. (Gold Sponsor)
1.00 – 1.10	Guided discussion	All

Dear Speakers, please use your allocated time 8-10 minutes only

Session Five: Closing Ceremony (1.11- 1.40 pm)

1. Honoring Contributors
2. Conference recommendation

Al-Faraheedi Main
Hall (**Ground Floor**)

Poster Presentations

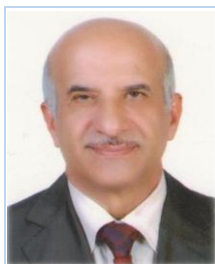
	Researcher(s)	Presentation title
1.	Ali Salman J. Juail	Scope on Medication Errors in a Sample of Two Iraqi Cities, Samawah and Diwaniah
2.	Maitham Hashim Neamah	The Rate of Endophthalmitis Following Intravitreal Injection of Multipuncture Bevacizumab (avastin) Vial
3.	Shereen Jawad Al-Ali	Whole Blood Transcriptomic Signature of Primary Sjögren's Syndrome-associated Lymphoma
4.	Hamed A Flaifel	The Effect of Stellate Ganglion Block on Intractable Lymphedema and pain After Breast Cancer Surgery
5.	Ihsan E. Al-Saimary	Is Helicobacter Pylori Infections in Immunocompromised Children a Risk Factor for Cancer?
6.	Jabir R. Hameed	The Role of Preoperative and Intraoperative Evaluation in Choosing Surgical Technique and Predicting the Result of Rhinoplasty
7.	Rasha S .Manuel	The Necessity for Routine Histopathological Examination of all Cholecystectomy Specimens
8.	Sadik Hassan Kadhem	The Role of Human Chorionic Gonadotropin in the Treatment of Retractable Testis
9.	Zaineb H Tahir	Number of Patients In Hospital & Primary Health Centers at Alzubair Listener Before & After Application of Patient Referral System : A Comparative Study
10.	Nasser Ghaly Yousif	High-Level of Notch 1/Jagged 1 Signaling Pathway Up Regulated Chemo-Resistance of Cisplatin in NSCLC: Inducing Metastasis and Poor Survival
11.	Amar T. Alhamdi	Catheter Ablation of Atrio Ventriculo Nodal Reentry Tachycardia (AVNRT), using the conventional method
12.	Abdulhusein K. Marzoq	The Charcot Foot A challenging surgical management
13.	Laith K Al Rubai	Establishing bowel cancer screening program in Iraq. Learning from the UK experience
14.	Lamy'a J. Dawood	Malignant Solid Tumors in Basra Pediatric Oncology Center

National Speakers Bios



Omran S Habib

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Amar T. Alhamdi

This talented Cardiologist is one of the most famous Iraqi doctors.

One of our pioneers in Cardio electrophysiology that had his contribution in the establishment of Dhiqar cardiology center



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Abstracts

1- Oral Presentations

Session one A

Scientific research: Inputs and outcome

1. Title	How to Increase Your Papers Citation and H Index
Authors	Prof. Nasser Ghaly Yousif
Speaker(s)	Prof. Nasser Ghaly Yousif
Quantitative metrics are important in the evaluation of scholarly research as Universities, governments, and funding bodies try to find ways to make their hiring, funding, and investment decisions based on measurable criteria. This has had a significant effect on journals publishing, with the well-known Impact Factor functioning as a ready-made, albeit controversial, indicator of the quality and significance of a published piece of work. This topic presentation will help researchers to increase their articles citations as well as H-index	

2. Title	Writing a paper for publication
Authors	Majid Alabood
Speaker(s)	Majid Alabood
<p>Background: This is a review presentation. Writing a paper for publication is a challenging task especially for non-native English speakers. Many Junior doctors and researchers are not familiar with the tips and skills of robust academic writing and choosing the appropriate journal for publication.</p> <p>Objective: This review aims to increase the awareness of new researchers on the importance of conducting and publishing studies. It summarizes the tips of successful writing and choosing the most appropriate and reputable journal for publication to avoid rejection and to increase the impact of the paper. It also emphasizes the importance of Evidence Based Practice in Medicine and discloses the appropriate methods of searching the literature to answer a clinical question.</p> <p>The main themes: The presentation will be deemed to cover the following themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. what is evidence based practice?2. Types of papers. What's the difference between systematic review, metaanalysis, narrative review...? etc.3. level of evidence.4. How do conduct systematic review and meta-analysis.5. Types of clinical questions?6. Questions and study design.7. How to search the literature.8. How to prepare to conduct a study?9. Differences between search databases like Pub Med, Scopus etc.10. Tips to write an article.11. Tips for academic writing.12. How to write a bad article.13. How to choose a suitable journal?14. The concept of open access and predator journals.	

Session one B: Selected speakers

3. Title	Unexplained syncope, cardiac arrhythmic etiologies
Authors	Amar T. Alhamdi
Speaker(s)	Amar T. Alhamdi
<p>Background: Syncope is a common presentation to the emergency departments. Identifying the underlying etiology is the corner stone for further management of the patient with syncope. Unexplained, undiagnosed and misdiagnosed syncope may lead to disastrous outcome.</p> <p>Methods: One hundred patients presented with syncope and referred for cardiac assessment to the Electrophysiologist were included. Patients cardiac status was assessed clinically and investigated by ECG, Echocardiography, Holter monitoring and by Electrophysiological study if felt necessary.</p> <p>Results: Two thirds in this series were found to be due to cardiac arrhythmias after misdiagnosis for the first, second and third medical contact. Treating these cases resulted in high rate of syncope control</p> <p>Conclusions: Identifying the underlying etiology of syncope is the leading step for management and possible cure. Arrhythmic cardiac cause has been reported in 30%-40% of cases of syncope presented to the ED in different series. The high rate of cardiac arrhythmia etiology in our series is due to main concern of cardiac cause in the group referred to the electrophysiologist for evaluation of the syncope.</p> <p>Key words: syncope, cardiac</p>	

4. Title	Histopathological observations on <i>Plasmodium vinkeivinkei</i> infection in protein-malnourished mice.
Authors	Nadham K. Mahdi Al-Adday, David CWT Crompton
Speaker(s)	Nadham K. Mahdi Al-Adday,
<p>Mice (CFLP strain) were infected with <i>Plasmodium vinkeivinkei</i> and fed <u>on</u> low protein diet (2% casein w/w) were sacrificed by exposure to diethyl ether just before death was expected to occur. Similarly, uninfected mice were used as control group. The spleens, livers, kidneys and heart of all mice were removed, fixed in Helly's solution for 24 hours and tissue sections were prepared for histopathological examination by light microscopy.</p> <p>Evidence for the greatest amounts of phagocytic activity were found in the spleen and liver. The spleen was almost wholly erythropoietic. Mononuclear infiltration around the bile ducts, degeneration of the proximal convoluted tubules (tubular nephrosis) and the deposition of malarial pigments in the capsule of the kidney of the protein-malnourished mice are reported for the first time. The primary cellular injury, cloudy swelling which occurred in the hepatic cells of the uninfected protein-malnourished mice, developed to fatty infiltration in the infected protein-malnourished mice. These changes, coupled with the observations of tubular nephrosis, are new and interesting histopathological indications of the combined deleterious effect upon the host of infection and protein-malnutrition. Great effect on infected hosts.</p> <p>Key words: <i>Plasmodium vinkeivinkei</i>ids, phagocytosis, renal damage</p>	

5. Title	Hospital Treated Head injury in Basrah: clinical and epidemiological aspects
Authors	Wisam Abdullah Jasim
Speaker(s)	Wisam Abdullah Jasim
<p>Background: Head injury still one of the major causes of morbidity and mortality worldwide. From this point every city should have its own study and evaluation for this problem.</p> <p>Objectives: To study the clinical and epidemiological aspects among a sample of head injury patients admitted to Al-Sadr teaching hospital in Basrah.</p> <p>Subjects and methods: All head injury patients were hospitalized in Al-Sadr teaching Hospital between February 2014 and February 2015 under the supervision of the author were enrolled in this study. Demographic, etiologic, injury and its outcome data were collected. A descriptive analysis was performed.</p> <p>Results: The study included 133 patients. Males comprised 77% of all patients with head injury. Most of them were with private job. Most of the patients were children (40.6 %). Road traffic accident was the most common cause for head injury (62.4%). An increased trend of injury was noticed during winter. Clinically, mild head injury patients with Glasgow coma scale 14-15 was the biggest group (41.3%). Brain CT was positive in 42% of patients only with a brain contusion as a commonest finding, facial nerve was the commonest cranial nerve affected, (9%) ends with surgery, intensive care unit admission was (34%), In- hospital mortality was (7.5%).</p> <p>Conclusions: Males and those in their reproductive age (16-45 years) were mostly affected by head injuries. Road traffic accidents were the most common cause of head injuries in Basrah. Thus legislation for the implementation of protective laws and programs is urgently needed.</p> <p>Key words : Basrah , head injury , epidemiology ,clinical aspects .</p>	

6. Title	Trans Oral Endoscopic Thyroidectomy Vestibular Approach(TOETVA). A Case Report As A New Procedure In IRAQ
Authors	Sadiq Ghaleb Kadem, Anu wong A- Thailand
Speaker(s)	Sadiq Ghaleb Kadem
<p>Background: The trans oral endoscopic thyroidectomy vestibular approach is a new pioneering procedure, natural orifice surgery, truly scar free and involves minimal dissection, thus resulting in excellent cosmetic results and decreased post-operative complications.</p> <p>Case Report: A 25-year-old female presented with a benign multinodular goiter of 2-year duration. She requested a surgery that would leave her with a minimal or no scar. She was scheduled to undergo trans oral endoscopic thyroidectomy vestibular approach.</p> <p>Results: The operative time was 150 minutes, the patient was discharged from hospital on the second postoperative day, there were no intraoperative complications. The only postoperative complication reported during was mild seroma and swelling in the anterior aspect of the neck which resolved completely within two weeks.</p> <p>Conclusion: The trans oral endoscopic thyroidectomy vestibular approach (TOETVA) is a safe, feasible and easy to performed procedure when the patient is selected properly and the operating surgeon has a good experience in laparoscopic surgery and in conventional open thyroidectomy. The long operative time of this approach will decrease with experience.</p> <p>Keywords: Thyroidectomy, endoscopic thyroidectomy, Transoral thyroidectomy.</p>	

7. Title	Thromboprophylaxis in Women with Unexplained Consecutive Recurrent Miscarriage
Authors	Maysoon Sharief ,Teshreen Sabri Ali
Speaker(s)	Maysoon S Flaifil
<p>Objectives: To Compare the effect of low dose aspirin and enoxaparin in women with recurrent miscarriage</p> <p>Patients & Methods: Randomized control trail conducted in Basrah Maternity and Child Hospital during the period from January 2012 till April 2013. Participants were 221 women aged 18-41 Yrs. with history of at least 2 previous miscarriages without apparent causes. they were divided into 2 groups; the 1st group included 11 were given enoxaparin and the 2nd group involved 108 which were given aspirin.</p> <p>Results: In both groups (75%) of patients had negative serological tests for thrombophilia. Enoxaparin group had higher significance of term delivery (86%) with less incidence of preterm delivery (4.5%) and less early pregnancy loss (8%). No significant difference in obstetrical complication but higher incidence in abdominal delivery in both groups. Higher incidence of postpartum hemorrhage in enoxaparin group in comparison with aspirin group and no significant adverse effects were noticed in the first group.</p> <p>Conclusion: since postpartum hemorrhage is a treatable, low molecular weight heparin is safe and effective for treating, preventing thrombosis and achieving successful pregnancy.</p>	

Session Two: Haemoglobinopathies

1. Title	Hemoglobinopathies in Iraq; Current Situation and Future Perspectives
Authors	Meaad K Hassan
Speaker(s)	Meaad K Hassan
<p>Background: Haemoglobinopathies (mainly thalassemia and sickle cell disease) are the most common monogenic diseases. These diseases are prevalent in most Arab Countries including Iraq. The cost of treating such patients is very high, in addition to the psychosocial burden on patients and their families.</p> <p>Objective: To present a profile on hemoglobinopathies in Iraq/Basrah and make some relevant recommendations.</p> <p>Current profile results: In Iraq, the β- thalassemia gene is detected in almost all governorates of Iraq, however, the carrier rate and type of mutation vary considerably from area to another, with 3.7- 7.7% of the population being carriers of the β- thalassemia gene. For α- thalassemia, the situation is less clear, as the diagnosis of carrier state and gene frequency is more difficult. However, more than 200 patients with Hemoglobin H disease which is the most severe, non-fatal form of α-thalassemia syndrome have been registered at Basrah Center for Hereditary Blood Diseases.</p> <p>Sickle cell disease is another underestimated health problem in Iraq, although the frequency of SC trait ranges from 1.2% to 6.5%, and it is reported in many parts of Iraq.</p> <p>Conclusion and recommendations: As there is no cure for these diseases, except with hematopoietic stem cell transplantation or gene therapy, prevention programs for these diseases were very successful in many countries worldwide. Although the Ministry of Health have implemented a prevention program for these diseases, however, this program faced many obstacles from the beginning, which need to be overcome as soon as possible to control this growing problem.</p> <p>Key words: Hemoglobinopathies, Thalassemia, sickle cell disease, Basrah</p>	

2. Title	Selected Immunological Markers in Patients with Sickle Cell Disease in Basrah
Authors	Sadeq K. Ali Al-Salait, Maha K. Al-Mishry, Nadhim K. Mahdi
Speaker(s)	Sadeq Khalaf Ali Al-Salait
<p>Objective: To assess the immune status of patients with SCD compared to normal matched individual and in different clinical settings, and to investigate any possible correlation of certain immunological markers with the pathogenesis of the disease.</p> <p>Methods: Thirty-two patients with SCD were recruited in the study during sickling crisis and followed to the steady state, in addition equal number of normal matched individuals were used as controls. Samples were taken for hematological parameters (CBC and differential), flow cytometry for lymphocyte subtypes and cytokines assay by CBA (computed bead array) technology.</p> <p>Results: The study showed significant increase in B-cells, accompanied by increased in total IgG and IgA. Total T-lymphocyte was significantly higher also in patient group with no significant different between crises and steady state groups. Interleukins 6, 8 and 12 are significantly elevated in patients. IL 6 and 12 in particular are elevated in crises but not in steady state suggesting a possible role in the pathogenesis of the crises.</p> <p>Conclusion: SCD is a multi-systemic disorder in which there is immune activation that may contribute to the unfavorable complications of the disease. Further studies may elucidate the complex mechanism behind and any possible role for immune modulators in disease control.</p> <p>Key words: sickle cell disease, immune status, interleukins, lymphocyte subsets, Basra.</p>	

3. Title	Laser trapping for studying the effect of hydroxyurea on deformability of sickle red blood cells
Authors	Anmar Ali, Haitham L Saadon, Asaad A. Khalaf, Sadiq K Ali, Omran S Habib, Muzahim M Abdulah
Speaker(s)	Asaad A Khalaf
<p>Background: The blood rheologic and hemodynamic properties are largely determined by red blood cells (RBCs) as the main cellular component. The normal healthy RBC has a flexible membrane facilitates reversible elastic deformability during passage through microcirculation. Sickle cell disease, which is prevalent in Basra governorate affects the RBC deformability and thereby causes disease symptoms. Hydroxyurea is effective in reducing morbidity and mortality in sickle cell disease patients by various mechanisms.</p> <p>Objective: to investigate the effect of hydroxyurea on RBC deformability among sickle cell disease patients by direct laser optical trapping technique.</p> <p>Methods: blood samples from sickle cell disease patients and control groups were prepared in the hospital medical lab and transferred into physics lab wherein the laser system presented and built-in. RBCs from each sample exposed to 3 different powers of laser 5, 15 and 20 mW for 15 seconds, then released and followed for two minutes. The images for each trapped RBC were obtained and at relaxation sequential times. The percentage changes in the diameters of trapped RBCs were measured for control and patients' groups.</p> <p>Results: Sickle cell disease patients were divided into two groups whether they were receiving hydroxyurea (39 patients) or not (43 patients). They were matched with control 50 patients regarding the age and gender. All the trapped RBCs were affected during the trapping time and then returned towards near normal with some differences between the groups and according to the power used. The deformability of hydroxyurea group was better and closure to control.</p> <p>Conclusion: the OT technique with optimal power is effective to study the RBC characteristics and deformability. On the other hand, the behavior of RBCs from patients treated with hydroxyurea was closure to normal than those of patients not receiving hydroxyurea.</p> <p>Key words: sickle cell disease, hydroxyurea, laser, optical trapping</p>	

4. Title	HLA alloimmunization in multiply transfused β-Thalassemia patients in Basrah
Authors	Ilham M Abdulridha , Hassan J Hassony, Sadeq K Ali
Speaker(s)	Ilham M Abdulridha
<p>Objective: HLA alloimmunization has been linked to higher failure rate of HSCT. Knowledge about the prevalence of HLA alloimmunization in transfusion dependent thalassemia patients who are subjects to future bone marrow transplantation is crucial to outline effective preventive measures that ensure higher probability of successful HSCT procedure in the future.</p> <p>Methods: 2 mL of venous blood was drawn from 73 multiply transfused thalassemia patients prior to transfusion and 50 healthy individuals, emptied into a disposable plain gel free tube which was left stand for one hour at room temperature allowed to clot and then centrifuged, the resulted serum sample used for the identification of anti HLA antibody using Luminex[®] technique.</p> <p>Results: Antibodies to HLA were detected in 70 (95.9%) out of 73 multiply transfused β-TM patients versus 10 (20%) out of 50 non-transfused healthy control individuals and statistically the difference were highly significant (P value < 0.001).Of the 70 patients with positive anti-HLA antibodies, 52 (71.2%) developed antibodies to both class of HLA molecule (class I & II) and 14 (19.2%) developed antibody to HLA class I only compare to 4(8 %) and 3(6.0%) out of the 10 apparently healthy individuals respectively, and the differences were statistically significant in both. While no statistical differences were found in the percentage of antibody to HLA class II only between the patients 4 (5.5%) and the control 3 (6.0%).</p> <p>Conclusion: the results suggest close association between HLA alloimmunization and the chronic transfusions of non-leukoreducedblood.</p> <p>Key words: HLA alloimmunization, Thalassemia, multiple blood transfusion, Leukoreduced blood</p>	

5. Title	prevalence of cardiac dysfunction among thalassemic patients in Babylon Governorate.
Authors	Ahmed Shemran Metlaq Alwataify
Speaker(s)	Ahmed Shemran Metlaq Alwataify
<p>Background: Patients with thalassemia are especially vulnerable to complications including cardiac dysfunction.</p> <p>Objective: to determine the prevalence of cardiac dysfunction among thalassemia patients in Babylon Governorate, the correlation of cardiac dysfunction with certain variables including age, number of blood transfusion, serum ferritin and type of thalassemia were also explored.</p> <p>Methods: A prospective study was conducted on 432 patients with thalassemia classified as 270 patients with thalassemia major, 114 with thalassemia intermedia and 48 patients with sickle cell thalassemia, who were attending thalassemia center at Babylon maternity and children hospital from period of August 2003 –to April 2010, their age ranged from 1-30 years with mean age of 11.8 years. They were studied for cardiac dysfunction.</p> <p>Results: 78 patients (18%) were found to have cardiac abnormality classified as 43.7% as asymptomatic patients, 33.3% as asymptomatic heart failure and 23% as symptomatic heart failure.</p> <p>Conclusion: this study revealed that 18% have cardiac abnormality and the prevalence of cardiac dysfunction was directly related to number of blood transfusion, age of patients and serum ferritin. The cardiac dysfunction is surprisingly asymptomatic even with high serum ferritin (only 23% of total positive cases have a feature of frank heart failure.</p> <p>Key words: thalasaemia , s ferritin , cardiac dysfunction.</p>	

6. Title	Cholelithiasis in children 16 years and below in Basrah: Epidemiological and Clinical study
Authors	Noor Al-Huda M. Hassan, Jasim Naeem Al-Asadi ,.Abbas Abdulzahra Alhasani
Speaker(s)	Abbas Abdulzahra Alhasani
<p>Objectives: The aim of this study is to show the demographic characteristics of children with cholelithiasis in Basrah, and to determine the clinical characteristics, predisposing factors and management of cholelithiasis in children in Basrah city.</p> <p>Methods: This is a retrospective hospital based study of children with gall stones aged 16 years and below who were admitted to the surgical wards of five major hospitals in Basrah city, during the period from first of January 2007 to 30th June 2012. The children were studied for demographic characteristics, past history, clinical presentation, hospitalization, and the treatment approach.</p> <p>Results: The total number of the study population included in this study was 95 children, the mean age of them was 11.7 ± 3.6 years (Range: 9 months - 16 years) and the male to female ratio was (1:1.4). The majority of the patients 46(78%) were symptomatic at the time of diagnosis, while only 13(22%) were asymptomatic. The reported symptoms were: abdominal pain, fever, nausea, vomiting, and jaundice. Sickle cell disease (SCD), Thalassemia major and hereditary Spherocytosis were three major types of hemolytic disease that predisposed children to gallstones.</p> <p>Conclusion: Sickle cell disease was the major predisposing factor and responsible for 59.3% of gall stone in this study, while Thalassemia and hereditary Spherocytosis were reported less frequently (6.8% and 1.7% respectively). No reported risk factor was seen in 32.2%. Surgery was performed for most of the patients; types of surgical approach were either open cholecystectomy (with or without splenectomy) or laparoscopic cholecystectomy.</p> <p>Key words: Cholelithiasis, sickle cell disease, Basrah</p>	

7. Title	Management of avascular necrosis of femoral head in sickler patients by core decompression and stem cells injection
Authors	Waleed Ali, Ali Hafidh Khudaier
Speaker(s)	Waleed Ali
<p>Background: Osteonecrosis of the femoral head is a challenging disorder often occurring in young patients in the third through fifth decade of life. If left untreated, it leads to complete deterioration, collapse and secondary osteoarthritis of the hip joint. The natural history of non-traumatic osteonecrosis has been well documented and despite advances in the understanding the etiology and pathogenesis of this disease, it remains a challenging dilemma in the diagnosis and therapeutic view of this disease. A high rate of progression has been reported when non-operative treatment alone has been used for symptomatic patients. Given the relatively young age at the time of presentation and the poor long-term results that have been reported after total hip arthroplasty in this population of patients, preservation of the joint is recommended for patients who have early-stage disease.</p> <p>Objectives: Is to assess feasibility, effectiveness, and safety of core decompression and stem cell therapy in avascular necrosis of femoral head in sickle cell disease patients in our locality.</p> <p>Methods: This is a prospective study which was conducted in orthopedic department in Basrah General Hospital between October 2012 and July 2014 on twenty-two hips in 18 sickle cell disease patients (7 males and 11 females) patients. All suffered from avascular necrosis of femoral head. Their ages ranged from 15-45 years (mean age 30 years). Four patients (22.22%) had bilateral involvement with AVN and the remaining 14 patients (77.78%) have unilateral hip involvement on presentation, divided into 9 patients involve the right side (50%), and 5 patients (27.78%) with left side involvement. Preoperative magnetic resonance imaging studies were performed for all patients to generate a base line for future follow up to detect any bone growth and regeneration. The extent of radiographic involvement of the disease was assessed quantitatively with use of a Ficat and Arlet staging system with stage I, II/III were included in this study. Modified Harris hip score was used to assess patients on clinical bases. All patients were approached through Hardinge approach, stem cells were harvested from anterior iliac crest, core decompression of necrotic zone in femoral head under fluoroscope control, and stem cell injection was done to that area.</p> <p>Results: Patients who reported moderate to severe pain, gait limitation and/or some functional limitation in activities during preoperative period, and underwent management with core decompression and stem cells therapy, reported decrease or absence of pain and improvement in functional activities during the first four months following surgery. This was supported by a preoperative mean Modified Harris Hip Score of 76.2%. After four months, the average MHH score significantly higher at 88.18% ($p < 0.0001$). Only 2 of 4 patients with stage III Ficat and Arlet staging system, shows progression to stage IV after one year of follow up. The radiological and MRI findings were less significant than the clinical evaluation results.</p> <p>Conclusion: Core decompression and stem cells use in treatment of AVN in sickle cell disease patients, was safe, feasible and effective especially in patients with Ficat and Arlet staging I and II. So as to avoid further progression collapse of the subchondral bone and secondary arthritis and thus early requirement for total hip replacement. This study needs to be extended.</p>	

8. Title	Measurement of F cells in sickle cell anaemia and trait by flow cytometry – comparison with the Kleihauer- Betke's slide method.
Authors	Ala'a A.Razak Abood, Dr. Sadeq K. Ali, Dr. Subh S.Al Mudallal
Speaker	Ala'a A.Razak Abood
<p>Objectives: 1. Accurate assessment of adult F cell in sickle cell disorders by flow cytometry using anti-HbF monoclonal antibody in comparison with slide method Kleihauer-Betke's test. 2. Correlation of HbF level and F cells with some findings and complications of sickle cell disease.</p> <p>Methods: This case control study was conducted on 50 individuals (10 normal individuals, 22 sickle heterozygous, and 18 sickle homozygous) over ten months period from the first of January until the end of October 2016. The patients were either registered at Basrah Center for Hereditary Blood Disease or their relatives. Included patients were sickle cell homozygous/ heterozygous regardless their age and gender. Patients received blood in the last three months, on hydroxyurea, pregnant ladies and who had combination with other haemoglobinopathies were excluded from the study. For each patient a complete blood picture, reticulocyte count and High Pressure liquid chromatography performed. Then F cells were measured by flow cytometry (using FITC labeled anti Human Glycophorin A and PE Mouse anti- Human Fetal Haemoglobin) in comparison with a cyto-chemical method which is Kleihauer-Betke's acid elution microscope slide method; that evaluate the HbF containing RBC under the light microscope.</p> <p>Results: The F cell percentage measured in control group, sickle heterozygous and homozygous by KB slide method was 0.05, 13.16 and 19.94 %, respectively. While by Flow cytometry it was 0.95, 21.11, and 40.94, respectively. Thus a statistical significant difference between F cell values measured by KB slide method and flow cytometry in sickle homozygous and heterozygous (P value < 0.01 and < 0.011 respectively) was documented with positive correlation between F cells quantified by KB test and Flow cytometry in all groups. The relation of clinical findings with HbF and F cell percentage revealed a protective effect of HbF as well as F cells increment in patients with sickle cell disease.</p> <p>Conclusion: Flow cytometry has greater accuracy than the KB test in quantification of fetal cells and accurately distinguish adult F cells from true Fetal cells. A positive correlation between KB test and flow cytometry among different groups; supporting the use of this traditional method as a primary diagnostic tool. Also the correlation of clinical findings with HbF and F cell percentage goes with a protective role of their increment in patient with SCD.</p> <p>Key words: SCD, F cell, Flow cytometry, KB test</p>	

Session Three

Cancer epidemiology and practice

1. Title	Cancer Registration in Basrah: Building up, outcome and sustainability
Author	Omran S Habib, Kareem A AlImara, Riyadh AH Al-Hilfi
Speaker	Omran S Habib, Riyadh AH Al-Hilfi
<p>Background: Cancer represents a major public health problem at international, EMRO region, national and at Basrah level.</p> <p>Objective: To present a profile on cancer in Basrah within the national and international context.</p> <p>Method: The results presented in this presentation were based on extensive work by Basrah Cancer Research Group carried out during the years 2005-2016. The figures are part of extensive analyses of routine registration data and household-based data.</p> <p>Results: The overall pattern in Basrah in general is not different from the national pattern except a modest tendency for the incidence rate to be higher in Basrah than the overall national level. There is a modest increase in incidence rate over years. The mortality shows a convex pattern over the last three decades. It increases first then there is evidence of decline during recent years. The decline could reflect an improvement in quantity and quality of care provided in Basrah. Cancer registration in Basrah is one of the best in Iraq and showed clear improvement in coverage and quality of data over time but a gap of about 20% of under-registration is still prevailing.</p> <p>Conclusions: Good achievement was done in: 1. Cancer registration. 2. Early detection and treatment. 3. Epidemiological research. <u>But</u> little was done in other areas (prevention, voluntary work and palliative care). Greater efforts by all partners are required to further develop effective strategy to control or contain cancer in Basrah and Iraq.</p> <p>Key words: Cancer, Basrah, Registration, epidemiological pattern</p>	

2. Title	Pattern of Neuroblastoma Among Children in Basrah Pediatric Oncology Center
Authors	Janan G. Hasan, Marwa Sabah Abdul Rahman
Speaker(s)	Janan G. Hasan , Marwa Sabah Abdul Rahman
<p>Background: Neuroblastoma is a neoplasm of the sympathetic nervous system, is the second most common extracranial malignant tumor of childhood, it accounts for 8-10% of all childhood cancers and for approximately 15% of cancer deaths in children.</p> <p>Objective: To describe the pattern of neuroblastoma in Basra pediatric oncology center. Methods: A retrospective study was carried out from October 2016 to April 2017 and covered cases registered and admitted to the Basrah Hospital of Pediatric Oncology center during the period from the 1st of January 2004 till the end of December 2016. The information was taken from patient's files; name, age (date of birth), date of admission, gender and residence.</p> <p>Results: The total cases of neuroblastoma admitted to the Center during that period were 179. Their age range from one month up to 14 years, 104 males and 75 females. The study showed that the percentage of patients with neuroblastoma treated in Basrah Pediatric Oncology Center have increased gradually from 5% at 2004 to 13.4% at 2015. The highest frequency of neuroblastoma was found in the age group (1-5 years) that included 117 patients 65.4%. Higher numbers of patients with neuroblastoma were from the center and northern areas of Basrah (22.3%, 12.3%) respectively and to a lesser extent in western (9%) and, southern (9%), and eastern (2.2%). Other governorates like Thi Qar and Maysan account for high rates (28.5% and 21.8% respectively) of admissions in Basrah Paediatric Oncology Center. This study revealed that most patients with neuroblastoma commonly presented with abdominal mass, gastrointestinal track symptoms and other symptom like pallor and fever, and most patients presented in stage IV (51.39%) or stage III (39.66%) of the disease. Distant metastasis occurs in 93(51.9%), the most common site of metastasis was bone marrow 72 (40.2%). The overall mortality was 92(51.4%), with the outcome varied with age, the age group < one year have low percentage of death (7.8%) than the age group 1-5 year (38.0%), the mortality rate was high in last 5 years 2012-2016 (22.3%) while the years from 2008-2011, 2004-2007 percentage of mortality low (16.8%, 12.3%) respectively, the non-compliance was decrease in the last 5 years 2012-2016(6.7%), high percentage of non-compliance in the period from 2008-2011 (7.8%).</p> <p>Conclusion: Neuroblastoma is a significant and growing malignant disease among children which dictates increase awareness about early sign and symptoms of the disease and improving the diagnostic facilities, with psychological support in order to resolve this problem.</p> <p>Key words: Neuroblastoma, time trend, mortality, Basrah</p>	

3. Title	Paraffin Embedded Marrow Clot Sections as an adjuvant procedure in the diagnosis of bone marrow diseases.
Authors	Jasim M A Al-Diab
Speaker(s)	Jasim M A Al-Diab
<p>Background: new practical, with high yield diagnostic methods are required in medical practice.</p> <p>Objectives: This study was conducted to evaluate the role of histopathological examination of paraffin embedded marrow clot sections in the diagnosis of different neoplastic and non-neoplastic marrow diseases, and whether these sections can replace the need for performing bone marrow trephine biopsy.</p> <p>Methods: Cases included in the study were those with clinical manifestations of hematological disorders who were subjected to peripheral blood examination, marrow aspirate cytology with complimentary bone marrow trephine and marrow clot biopsy. Along with marrow aspiration, the blood left behind after preparing marrow smears, was used to prepare paraffin embedded histological clot sections. The results for 114 patients were analyzed simultaneously for their concordance to highlight the usefulness of marrow clot sections in the diagnosis of different diseases affecting the bone marrow. Immunohistochemically stains were used whenever indicated to obtain additional diagnostic information.</p> <p>Results: Marrow clot sections were diagnostic and concordant with the complete blood count, marrow aspirates and trephines in 63% of the cases. While trephines were unconvincing in another 15.7% of the cases, the clot sections were diagnostic. In 1.7% of the cases, the clot sections and trephines were diagnostic while marrow aspirates were inconclusive Thus in 80.7% of the cases, marrow clot sections provided the diagnosis and replacing the need for performing trephine biopsy. However, trephine biopsy is still considered necessary in 19.2% of the cases in whom the clot sections are of poor quality and unconvincing.</p> <p>Conclusion: In most of the cases clot sections can replace the need for trephine biopsy, but trephine biopsy is still required in other cases. The clot sections are useful as an adjuvant procedure to increase the diagnostic yield in marrow studies Because it is difficult to expect which patients will be diagnosed by clot sections and which will need trephine biopsy, it is advisable to perform both trephine and clot biopsy together with the marrow aspirates.</p> <p>Keywords: Bone marrow trephine biopsy, marrow clot biopsy, marrow aspirates</p>	

4. Title	Estimation of Serum Beta 2- microglobulin Among Newly Diagnosed Children with Cancer in Basra
Authors	Ahmed Mohsin Aziz, Janan Ghalib.Hasan
Speaker(s)	Ahmed Mohsin Aziz, Janan Ghalib.Hasan
<p>Background: Beta 2- micro globulin (β2-MG) is involved in human malignancies. Increased synthesis and release of β2-MG, as indicated by elevated serum, plasma, or urine β2-MG concentration, occurs in several malignant diseases.</p> <p>Objective The study was designed to assess the role of serum Beta2- micro globulin in the support of the diagnosis of different types of pediatric malignancies</p> <p>Patients and Methods This case - control study was carried out on 137 children and adolescents with newly diagnosed pre-treated malignant diseases who were admitted to pediatric oncology center at Basra Children's Specialty Hospital ,their ages ranged from 3 months to 15 years, during the period from the 1st of November 2014 till the end of October 2015, 71 were males and 66 were females and 148 healthy children and adolescents (83 were males and 65 were females) matched for age and sex regarded as control group . Cases and control characteristics were assessed from data collection by special questionnaire. All patients and control group were investigated for Beta2- microglobulin by the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.</p> <p>Results The study had revealed that level of Beta2- microglobulin was significantly higher in patients with malignancy in comparison to control group, P value < 0.001.Also the serum Beta2- microglobulin level for both hematological malignancies and solid malignancies was assessed and it was found that significantly higher percentage of elevated serum Beta2- microglobulin level was present in patients with hematological malignancies in comparison to solid malignancies, P value < 0.01.The study also had revealed that there was a significant correlation between the initial white blood cells count \geq 50000 cells/ml and abnormal serum Beta2- microglobulin level ,P value < 0.01,but there was no significant differences in serum Beta2- microglobulin level in relation to risk groups and immunophenotypes of acute lymphoblastic leukemia ,morphological subtypes of acute myloid leukemia , stages of each type of lymphoma (Hodgkin lymphoma and non-Hodgkin lymphoma) and the histopathological subtypes of non-Hodgkin lymphomas. After subjecting variables (specific to acute lymphoblastic leukemia) to logistic regression analysis, the significant independent risk factor that associated with abnormal serum Beta2- microglobulin level was high initial white blood cells count (\geq50000 cells/ml).</p> <p>Conclusion Serum Beta2- microglobulin level is significantly higher in patients with hematological malignancies and high initial white blood cells count(\geq50000cells/ml) .From this study,serum Beta2- microglobulin could be recommended in the initial work up for diagnosis of childhood malignancy.</p>	

5. Title	Clinical and pathological profile of young age Iraqi females diagnosed with breast cancer (an observational study)
Authors	Shaymaa Mohammed Radhi, Manwar Abdulelah Al-Naqqash
Speaker(s)	Shaymaa Mohammed Radhi , Manwar Abdulelah Al-Naqqash
<p>Background: Globally, breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer and the leading cause of cancer death in women. Young women with breast cancer represent a subset of the breast cancer with its unique characteristics and outcome compared to older women.</p> <p>Objective: To assess Iraqi young female breast cancer patients' clinical profile (tumor size, lymph nodes), and evaluate their molecular profile (Er, PgR, HER2/neu and Ki-67).</p> <p>Design: observational cross sectional study</p> <p>Setting: Tertiary hospital, Baghdad Medical City, Baghdad oncology teaching hospital Patients:1349 women with breast cancer of whom 202 had age less or equal to 40 years</p> <p>Results: the prevalence of young patients (defined was ≤ 40 years), with breast cancer was 15% (7.9%, 4.8%, 2.1% and 0.2% for 36 – 40, 31 – 35, 26 – 30 and 20 – 25 years respectively). There was high ER and PR positive status 74.4% and 70.4%, with 54.1% Her2 positive, and 10.2% as triple negative. Luminal A is the most molecular subtype 50%. There was slight positive trend of increase ER and PR expression with increasing age and there was slight negative trend of increment of Her2 expression and triple negative with increasing age. Lower age was associated with increase odds for having stage IV or metastatic disease.</p> <p>Conclusion: The highest age group was 36 – 40 years in the young women, there is high expression of ER, PR, Her2 and triple negative, but age appear to have weak effect on hormonal and immunohistochemistry characters of the tumors.</p> <p>Key wards: young women, Iraqi breast cancer, molecular classification.</p>	

6. Title	Ototoxicity in cancer patients on Cisplatin therapy attending Basrah Oncology Centre: A cohort study
Authors	Hassanin M Al-Ali, Jasim N Al-Asadi
Speaker(s)	Hassanin M Al-Ali, Jasim N Al-Asadi
<p>Objective: To study the association between Cisplatin chemotherapy and sensory-neural hearing loss in cancer patients.</p> <p>Methods: This research was a cohort study carried out at the Oncology Center and the ENT department in Al-Sadr Teaching Hospital for the period from first of Aril to 30th of August 2015. Official and ethical permissions of Basrah General Health Directorate and The Ethical and Research Committees of College of Medicine were obtained approved before carrying out this study. The study population included adult patients who were newly diagnosed with cancer attending the Oncology Center for chemotherapy who were put on Cisplatin alone as a cohort group and those who were put on Carboplatin alone as a control group. The exclusion criteria are Children and Patients who already had hearing difficulty.</p> <p>Fifty patients were eligible, 27 of them who were put on Cisplatin as the cohort group, and 23 patients were on Carboplatin used as a control group. Both groups were followed up for one month. Recording of data is performed on sheets which are given code numbers then transferred to computer with daily checking. Data were collected using a special questionnaire designed for the purpose of the study to enquire about information related to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Personal information 2. Past medical and surgical history 3. ENT (Ear, Nose and Throat) clinical symptoms and signs. 4. Type of chemotherapy: either Cisplatin or Carboplatin. 5. Audiometric examination: The entire participants underwent audiometric examination, using the pure tone audiometry before use of chemotherapy and one month after usage of chemotherapy. <p>Results: showed that the incidence rate of SNHL in one or both ears was 66.7% among Cisplatin treated patients, while the incidence rate of SNHL in one or both ears was only 13% among patients who were on Carboplatin. The relative risk equals to 5.13 with $p < 0.001$.</p> <p>Conclusion: The conclusions obtained from this study are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cisplatin is a very high risk factor for developing SNHL at its standardized chemotherapy dose just after one month of starting chemotherapy. 2. Carboplatin has very much less risk for SNHL at its standardized chemotherapy dose for the same period of usage of Cisplatin. 3. Factors of age, gender, residential places, occupation, educational status, smoking, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, and chronic drug intake have no significant relationships with SNHL. <p>Key words: ENT, Cisplatin, Toxicity, cohort</p>	

7. Title	Polymorphism of <i>BRAF</i> gene in Colorectal Cancer (CRC) of Iraq patients
Authors	Enas Muhsin Abbass, Estabraq AR Al-Wasiti, Alaa Ghani Hussein
Speaker(s)	Estabraq AR Al-Wasiti , Enas Muhsin Abbass, Alaa Ghani Hussein
<p>Aim: This molecular bases study was focused on the BRAFV600E and the nucleotide variation in this gene in CRC Iraqi patients.</p> <p>Methods: Seventy patient samples and 10 healthy participates as control. Patient were 25 to 80 years old with mean age 52.5 years old. DNA was extracted and amplified by conventional PCR technique and 65 Amplicons were sequenced using Sanger method.</p> <p>Results: No BRAFV600E mutation was detected in all investigated cases. but the molecular investigation of BRAF fragment obtain several nucleotide polymorphisms two of them C 145 and 161 were common in both healthy and patient groups may indicated normal inheritance in Iraqi population. Other nucleotide variation was detected in the patients group only contained 179 T/C frequency was 100% all patient's groups followed by 218 T/C (83.07%) and 207 T/C (46.15%) in other patient's groups</p> <p>Conclusion: Our finding that there is no BRAF V600E mutation was detected in Iraqi patients, for more understanding to that gene mutation rules we recommended conducted more studies covering large number of patients from different races and ethnic group to evaluation of other BRAF mutations such study brings low expense and decrease the real risk of adverse effects.</p> <p>Key words: BRAFV600E , Transition, Colorectal Cancer, SNP</p>	

8. Title	The role of MMP-9 in breast cancer: A comparative study in Basrah and Baku
Authors	Ghalib Noori Nasr , Nasrullayeva GM, Gaziyevev AY, Jawad K Al-Ali
Speaker(s)	Ghalib Noori Nasr, Jawad K Al-Ali
<p>Background: Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women worldwide. Matrix Metalloproteinase -9 (MMP-9) is implicated in tumor invasion. Distant metastasis is correlated with high MMP-9 expression levels, leading to development of cancer by degradation of extracellular matrix thus allow tumor cells to escape from the primary tumor, invade local tissues, enter the blood stream and reach the secondary sites causing formation of new tumors in other organs.</p> <p>Objective: To demonstrate that the level of MMP-9 is higher among breast cancer patients compared to healthy controls.</p> <p>Methods: This study was accomplished on the breast cancer patients referred to Basrah Oncology Center (IRAQ) and Clinic Oncology (Baku) Center of Azerbaijan Medical University. Total one hundred patients with breast cancer (50 from Basra and 50 from Baku) have been examined, all of them confirmed to have breast cancer by clinical surgical, laboratory analysis, X Ray and histopathology. Blood samples were collected from all patients before initiation of treatment and used for analysis. As well as 24 healthy control (12 from Basrah and 12 from Baku).</p> <p>Results: Mean of concentration of MMP9 in Basra (1.734 pg /ml) and</p>	

in Baku (1.928 pg/ml) for breast cancer patients. The comparative values in healthy controls were 1.558 pg/ml and 1.770 pg/ml in Basrah and Baku respectively.
 Conclusion: MMP-9 level is higher among patients with breast cancer as compared to healthy controls.

Key words: Basrah, Baku, MMP-9, breast cancer

9. Title	A molecular signature of dormancy in CD34+CD38- acute myeloid leukaemia cells
Authors	Mazin Gh. Al-Asadi
Speaker	Mazin Gh. Al-Asadi
<p>Background: Dormant leukaemia initiating cells in the bone marrow niche are a crucial therapeutic target for total eradication of acute myeloid leukaemia. To study this cellular subset, we created and validated an in vitro model employing the cell line TF1a, treated with Transforming Growth Factor β1 (TGFβ1) and a mammalian target of rapamycin inhibitor. The treated cells showed decreases in total RNA, Ki-67 and CD71, increased aldehyde dehydrogenase activity, forkhead box 03A (FOX03A) nuclear translocation and growth inhibition, with no evidence of apoptosis or differentiation. Using human genome gene expression profiling we identified a signature enriched for genes involved in adhesion, stemness/inhibition of differentiation and tumour suppression as well as canonical cell cycle regulation. The most upregulated gene was the osteopontin-coding gene SPP1. Dormant cells also demonstrated significantly upregulated beta 3 integrin (ITGB3) and CD44, as well as increased adhesion to their ligands vitronectin and hyaluronic acid as well as to bone marrow stromal cells. Immunocytochemistry of bone marrow biopsies of AML patients confirmed the positive expression of osteopontin in blasts near the para-trabecular bone marrow, whereas osteopontin was rarely detected in mononuclear cell isolates. Unsupervised hierarchical clustering of the dormancy gene signature in primary acute myeloid leukaemia samples from the Cancer Genome Atlas identified a cluster enriched for dormancy genes associated with poor overall survival.</p>	

Session Four: Diabetes and other endocrine issues

1. Title	Degree of diabetes control. Tertiary care experience from Basrah over ten years
Authors	Abbas Ali Mansour
Speaker(s)	Abbas Ali Mansour
<p>Background: Diabetes in Iraq reached epidemic over the last decade. The aim of this study was to assess the achievement of ABC targets (glycated haemoglobin[HbA1c], blood pressure, and lipid) for a cohort of type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) from Basrah.</p> <p>Methods: Retrospective database review for patients registered in the Faiha Specialized Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolism Center (FDEMC) from August the 24th, 2008 onward until the end of July 2017. Data analysis were done in September 2017. At this time, we present only the glycaemic control.</p> <p>Results: We enrolled 12869 patients. There were 7003(54.4%) women and 5866 men (45.6%). Only 13.8% achieved the target HbA1c of the total cohort. Men achieved control in 16.3% vs 11.8% in women. Age at enrolment at the age of 60 years or older obtained better glycaemic control than younger age group. The shorter the duration of follow-up and Shorter duration of diabetes was associated with the best control. The degree of control was better in those on oral antidiabetic drugs than insulin. No relation between the number of visits and degree of control could be detected.</p> <p>Conclusion: The degree of glycaemic control was very low if we compare it with literature. Still, a lot of effort will be needed to achieve better glycaemic control.</p> <p>Key words: Type 2 diabetes mellitus ,glycemic control, oral antidiabetic drugs, insulin.</p>	

2. Title	The prevalence of undiagnosed liver fibrosis and cirrhosis in patients with diabetes mellitus
Authors	Laith Al Rubaiy
Speaker(s)	Laith Al Rubaiy
<p>Background: There are limited data on prevalence of advanced fibrosis among T2DM patients. It is well known that patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) are at risk for developing end-stage liver disease due to nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), which is the severe form of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD).</p> <p>Objective: To evaluate prevalence of steatosis, advanced fibrosis and cirrhosis using non-invasive methods in T2DM patients.</p> <p>Methods: A total of 200 consecutive T2DM patients (>45 years) were recruited in the study. Liver stiffness was evaluated by magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), fibroscan and NAFLD fibrosis score (NFS) respectively. Other causes of chronic liver disease were excluded such as significant alcohol consumption, viral hepatitis infection or other liver diseases.</p> <p>Results: 60% of patients were women, the median age was 55 years old mean BMI was 30 kg/m² and diabetes duration was 7.6 years. A high prevalence of liver steatosis (63.9%), advanced fibrosis assessed by NFS (12.8%) and evidence of liver cirrhosis in</p>	

MRI (6.0%) was observed. Of those patients who had cirrhosis, 10% of them had Child Pugh B or C. One patient was found to have hepatocellular carcinoma and cirrhosis.

Conclusion: A high frequency of undiagnosed advanced fibrosis and cirrhosis was observed in non-selected T2DM patients. Screening of these conditions may be warranted in this patient population.

Key words: Liver fibrosis, diabetes mellitus, cirrhosis

3. Title	Epidemiology of type 1 diabetes mellitus in Basrah, Southern Iraq: A retrospective study
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Authors	Dhaighum Almahfoodh, Majid Alabbood, Ahmed Al-Ali, Abbas Mansour
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Speaker(s)	Dhaighum Almahfoodh
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Background: Assessing the extent of important diseases like diabetes mellitus is one essential pre-requisite to effective planning of adequate health care.

Objective: To investigate the epidemiology of type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM) in Basrah city, Southern Iraq among people 0–40-year-old.

Methods: This was a retrospective data analysis of electronic archives for patients with T1DM registered in Faiha Specialized Diabetes, Endocrine, and Metabolism Center (FDEMC), which is a tertiary referring Center in Basrah. The data include electronic database from August 2008 to February 2016. Incidence and prevalence rates are expressed per 100,000. Population of Basrah estimates were derived from official data of The Ministry of Planning of Iraq.

Results: There were 2536 people registered at FDEMC. Of them 53.5% were males. The overall mean age at first diagnosis was 15.3 ± 9 years and it was significantly higher in males ($P=0.0005$). The prevalence rate of T1DM in people 40 years old and younger in 2016 was 87 per 100,000. Between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2016, there were 818 identified new cases of T1DM. Of these, 417 (50%) were males. The average annual incidence rate of T1DM was 7.4 per 100,000.

Conclusions: The incidence of T1DM in Basrah lies in the “intermediate group” according to DIAMOND project group classification. The incidence was increasing over the last three years. The data produced by this study provide a baseline for assessing future changes in the epidemiology of T1DM in Iraq.

Key words: Diabetes mellitus type 1, Basrah, prevalence, incidence

4. Title	Patterns of Age, Gender, and Body mass index in the newly diagnosed patients with Type 1 and 2 Diabetes Mellitus in Basrah: A retrospective database study
Authors	Haider Ayad Alidrisi
Speaker(s)	Haider Ayad Alidrisi
<p>Objective: To explore the patterns of age, gender, and BMI in the newly diagnosed cases of type1 and 2 diabetes.</p> <p>Methods: A retrospective study was performed in Faiha Specialized Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolism Center (FDEMC) in Basrah using patient's electronic database. Newly diagnosed type1 and 2 Diabetes Mellitus cases were included during from 2009 to 2017. Data covered age, gender, and body mass index at time of the diagnosis.</p> <p>Results: A total of 12,935 patients were included, 1,856 (14.3%) type 1 and 11,079 (85.7%) type 2 diabetes. The mean ages were 14.9 ± 8 and 48.3 ± 11.5 years for patients with type 1 and 2 respectively. There was progressive increase in newly diagnosed type 1 DM, which was more in patients <18 years' old who were 1,242(66.9%) as compared to 613(33.1%) ≥ 18 years old. The mean ages of patients with type1 DM had shown a progressive significant decrease through the study years ($P < 0.00001$). A higher progressive increase was observed in newly diagnosed type 2 DM, with the highest frequency 5,363(48.4%) patients aged 45-64 years old, and 4,751(42.9%) adult <45 years old. Only 963(8.7%) patients >65 years old. However, the mean ages of patients with type 2 DM showed no particular pattern of change during the years of the study ($P = 0.14$). A higher male type 1 DM 974(52.5%) as compared to 882(47.5%) females, and higher females type 2 DM 5924(53.5%) as compared to 5155(46.5%) males, ($P = 0.000001$). The progressive increase in type 2 DM was correlated significantly with increased BMI through the study years ($P < 0.00001$). From those patients, 3238(30.9%) overweight, 3276(31%) class I obese, 1718(16.4%) class II obese, 949(9%) class III obese. Only 1307(12.4%) with BMI <25 kg/m² compared to 9181(87.6%) with BMI ≥ 25kg/m², ($P = 0.00001$). In type 1 DM patients, a more progressive increase in patients was observed in those with BMI <18 kg/m² 987(54.7%) as compared to 548(30.4%), 166(9.2%), 102(5.6%) were being normal, overweight, and obese respectively, ($P = 0.04$). The highest frequency of type 2 DM was in females ≥ 45 years old, 3332(31.7%), from them (64.7%) were obese and (25.8%) overweight, followed by males ≥ 45 years old 3006(28.6%) from which (42.7%) obese and (40.5%) overweight, and females <45 years old 2280(21.7%) with the highest prevalence of obesity (69.9%), and (21.7%) overweight. The lowest frequency of type 2 DM were in males <45 years old 1870(17.8%) from which (48%) and (35.6%) were obese and overweight respectively.</p> <p>Conclusion: A progressive increase in newly diagnosed patients with both types of diabetes which was significantly higher in type 2 DM. A slight male preponderance in type 1 DM, with female preponderance in Type 2 DM. Whilst most type 1 DM patients were young underweight at diagnosis, most of type 2 DM patients were middle aged with higher prevalence of obesity. However, two fifths of type 2 DM patients were young adults with the vast majority of them were overweight and obese. The findings suggest a role to body weight on the development of diabetes.</p> <p>Key words:Age, gender, body mass index, type1 DM, type 2 DM.</p>	

5. Title	Spectrum of thyroid abnormalities among pregnant women in Basrah
Authors	Ammar Mohammed Saeed Almomin, and Abbas Ali Mansour.
Speaker(s)	Ammar Mohammed Saeed Almomin
<p>Objective: to see the spectrum of abnormal thyroid function among apparently healthy pregnant women in Basrah (Southern Iraq).</p> <p>Patients and methods: This study was a cross-sectional study conducted between January 2014 and June 2015 for the screening of thyroid function in pregnant women in Basrah.</p> <p>Methods: The number of pregnant women included Initially was 893 But this number was to 628 pregnant women after the application of certain criteria. They are divided into two groups according to anti-thyroid peroxidase (anti-TPO) antibodies status. Pregnant women sent for thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH), free thyroxine (FT4), and anti-TPO antibody tests. The patient sample was collected from private and public sectors in Basrah city south of Iraq.</p> <p>Results: for anti-TPO negative antibody pregnant women, the following results were obtained; isolated hypothyroxinemia 5.4%, isolated hyperthyroxinemia 3.6%, subclinical hypothyroidism 4.2%, clinical hypothyroidism 0.4%, subclinical hyperthyroidism 3.9 %, and clinical hyperthyroidism 0.6%. While for anti-TPO positive antibody pregnant women the results were as follow; subclinical hypothyroidism 10.4%, isolated hypothyroxinemia 8.5%, isolated hyperthyroxinemia 5.7%, clinical hypothyroidism 7.5%, subclinical and clinical hyperthyroidism in 4.7% and 2.8% respectively.</p> <p>Conclusion: Thyroid dysfunctions are common during pregnancy. Subclinical hypothyroidism and isolated hypothyroxinemia were the two most common thyroid abnormalities seen in pregnant women. Anti-TPO antibodies positivity predict an increase in the clinical and subclinical thyroid diseases.</p> <p>Keyword: Pregnancy, thyroid dysfunction, Subclinical hypothyroidism, subclinical hyperthyroidism isolated hypothyroxinemia, thyroid peroxidase antibodies.</p>	

6. Title	Thyroid Peroxidase Antibodies in Type 1 Diabetes in Basrah : a Retrospective Study.
Authors	Nassar Taha Yassen
Speaker(s)	Nassar Taha Yassen
<p>Background: Autoimmune thyroid disorder is a common problem affecting patients with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus (DM1), and imposing a further burden over their health, growth and learning.</p> <p>Objective: to assess the prevalence of anti-thyroid peroxidase autoimmunity in DM1 in Basrah.</p> <p>Methods: The data were extracted from the database engine of Faiha Specialized Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolism Center (FDEMC), involving patients with DM1, who had been sent for thyroid peroxidase antibodies (TPO-Ab) immunoassay for screening purposes.</p> <p>Results: A total of 358 patients were studied, with a mean age of 16.7 ± 8.8 years, and an HbA1c at diagnosis of $12.6 \pm 1.5\%$, 165(46%) were males and 193(54%) were females, with mean age of DM1 diagnosis for males 17.2 ± 8.9 years, and for females 16.6 ± 8.8 years. TPO-Ab was positive in 102(28.5%) patients, their mean HbA1c at diagnosis $11.2 \pm 0.3\%$ vs. $13.1 \pm 1.6\%$ for TPO-Ab+ve patients ($p=0.44$). 41(40.2%) of them were males, and 61(59.8%) were females without significant difference in the development of TPO seropositivity between genders ($p=0.098$). the mean age of DM1 diagnosis for patients with positive versus negative TPO-Ab was 18.1 ± 8.9 and 16.2 ± 8.8 years respectively ($p=0.058$), and for TPO-Ab+ve males was 19.3 ± 7.7 years, while for TPO-Ab+ve females 17.3 ± 9.6 years ($p=0.27$). The mean HbA1c for TPO-Ab+ve males and females was 11.1 ± 3.1 vs. 11.2 ± 3 respectively. TPO autoimmunity positivity was higher in females (34%) over males (10%) when DM1 diagnosed in the first decade of life ($p=0.006$), while in males, seropositivity tend to be more when DM1 diagnosed in the third decade (36.6%) ($p=0.04$), although, this is the least decade for the males to develop overt thyroid disease ($p=0.029$). Interestingly, 75% of patients who had developed DM1 in the second decade with initial HbA1c <7%, developed TPO seropositivity ($p=0.003$), and those with initial HbA1c ranging between 11-13% had the least chance to be TPO-Ab+ve, without affecting their likelihood of developing overt thyroid disease ($p=0.31$). Hypothyroidism was found in 25.5% of TPO-Ab+ve patients ($p<0.001$), their mean age was 20.1 ± 9.9 years vs. 17.5 ± 8.5 for non-hypothyroid ($p=0.19$), being more in females (76.9%) vs. males (23.1%) ($p=0.032$), but this is only true if DM1 evolve in the third decade of life. The mean age for DM1 diagnosis for hypothyroid males 19 ± 8.5, females 20.5 ± 10.4 years ($p=0.76$).</p> <p>Conclusion: TPO seropositivity was common among patients with DM1, with risk of overt hypothyroidism, screening of patients with DM1 for TPO-Ab is necessary.</p> <p>Keywords: Type 1 diabetes mellitus, TPO, Hypothyroidism</p>	

7. Title	Assessment the outcome of Diabetic Foot ulcers in Basrah
Authors	Abdulhusein K. Marzoq , Nadeem Raheem shiaa , Raghda Abdali Zaboon
Speaker(s)	Abdulhusein K. Marzoq
<p>Background: Diabetic foot and diabetic foot ulcer are a result of inadequate control of diabetes mellitus and may represent a critical clinical entity.</p> <p>Objectives: 1- To assess the outcome of diabetic foot ulcer in patient with diabetes mellitus in terms of healing, persist unhealed, minor amputation, major amputation, recurrence and death) 2- To assess the significance of risk factors like (e.g. uncontrolled diabetes, peripheral neuropathy etc....)</p> <p>Methods: prospective study including patients with diabetic foot ulcer DFUs who attended Alfaiha diabetic foot clinic in Basra from JAN 2017 – FEB 2018 and follow up for 6 months later. 100 patients were included in this study.</p> <p>Results: The mean age group of the patient (53.63± 9.67) years. 51% males and 49% females. with age group 45-64 years which represent 69% of the pts. Ended with 62% healing, 26% minor amputation, 12% persist unhealed. while age group more than 64 years had poor outcome: 50% minor amputation, 36% major amputation and 7% recurrence and 7% death. this is significant (p=0.0001). Patient with peripheral neuropathy had poor outcome healed 53%, 29.2% minor amputation, 6% major amputation, persist unhealed 9.4%, recurrence 1.2% and 1.2% death with significant association(p=0.03) Patients with size of ulcer <1cm and all are healed 100% in comparison with patient with ulcer size >5cm 73% end with minor amputation, 19% major amputation, 4% recurrence and 4% death with significant association p value = 0.001 Patient with duration more than 3months ended with minor amputation 76%, major amputation 17%, recurrence 3.5% and death 3.5% while those with less than 3months most of them ended with healing, the study shows statically significantly p value p= 0.0001.</p> <p>Conclusion: both glycaemic control and promoting the knowledge of patients and health care professionals in order to diagnose DFU in the early stage and to prevent development of the high-grade wounds be a significant step in reducing the burden of DFU.</p> <p>Key words: assessment. Basrah, diabetes mellitus, diabetic foot.</p>	

8. Title	Bariatric surgery (Metabolic Surgery) in patients with type 2 DM. An experience from Basrah
Author	Falih Al-Gazgooz
Speaker	Falih Al-Gazgooz
<p>Objective: To determine the beneficial effect of bariatric surgery in the management of diabetes mellitus type 2 in obese patients.</p> <p>Method: A prospective study conducted on 332 patients with BMI (28 -58), mean age (39 years), female (68%), male (32%) in Basrah Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery Center from Feb.2011 to June 2015. All of the patients in this study were diabetic type 2 with different stages of the disease, types of medications, C peptide level, HbA1c and BMI. All of them were subjected to three different bariatric procedures (LSG, MGB, RYGB) for a period of follow up 2-4 years regarding: glycemic control, HbA1c, type and number of medications.</p> <p>Results: 332 patients included in this study, operated on in form of MGB 111 (33.5%), RYGB 88 (26.5%) and LSG 133 (40%) according to selection criteria: patient wish, severity of DM, duration of DM, C peptide and other comorbidities. A complete resolution from diabetes mellitus was achieved in 90, 87 and 56% of the three treatment groups respectively. Other patients developed improvement in clinical manifestations, type and route of medications.</p> <p>Conclusion: Bariatric surgery for obese diabetic patients resulted in complete resolution, improved diabetes control and overall improvement in the quality of life.</p> <p>Keywords : Diabetes type 2 ,Obesity , Bariatric surgery</p>	

9. Title	Faiha Specialized Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolism Center: first audit of people with type 1 diabetes in Basrah, Southern Iraq
Authors	Majid Alabbood
Speaker(s)	Majid Alabbood
<p>Background: Faiha Specialized diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolism Center is a specialized tertiary center in Basrah, southern Iraq. It has been providing care to people with diabetes since its establishment in 2008.</p> <p>Objective: This is the first audit of people with type 1 diabetes (T1D) in Basrah.</p> <p>Methods: The following data were retrospectively retrieved from electronic records of the center for the period from August 2008 to December 2107: gender, age, age at diagnosis, age at registration, residency, family history, SMBG, month at diagnosis, BMI, insulin regimen, diabetes complications, GAD antibodies and HbA1c.</p> <p>Results: The total number of people with T1D registered at the center is 2536. Of them, 1357 (53.5%) were males. The mean age was 24.8 ± 18.5 years with the mean age at diagnosis 15.2 ± 1 years. The mean height, weight and BMI were 140.5 ± 5.2 cm, 48.1 ± 12.3 kg and 20 ± 8.8 respectively. 1022 (40%) of the participants had normal BMI at the diagnosis. Anti-GAD antibodies were demonstrated in 255 (29%) out of 777 participants. The trend of insulin regimen used has changed from premixed (86%) at registration to basal bolus (81%) at the end visit. Only 10% of the participants achieved target HbA1c at the last visit. 1316 (52%) have family history of diabetes. Majority of the patients were from Urban areas. Only 35% of the participants had glucometers at home.</p> <p>Conclusion: Clinical inertia and patients` noncompliance may explain the poor glycaemic control observed in our center despite the increasing implementation of basal bolus insulin regimen. More glucometers need to be supplied to people with T1D to improve glycaemic control. Active surveillance for cases in families with history of diabetes may enable early diagnosis and hence management.</p> <p>Key words: type 1 diabetes, Basrah, audit.</p>	

2- Poster Presentations

1. Title	Charcot neuroarthropathy of foot and ankle
Authors	Abdulhuseein Khudair Marzooq
<p>Objective:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To know data predication in the diagnosis of Charcot foot both clinical and most relevant investigations. Early diagnosis facilitates treatment and decrease disability 2. To choose the most effective methods of classifications to define treatment and prevent amputation 3. To initiate multidisciplinary team to deal with the cases of Charcot foot 4. To evaluate the best method of treatment in active cases and using off-loading measures 5. To choose the most effective surgical procedure <p>Key Points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand the disease, try simple solution first, use the most appropriate approach 2. active Charcot foot is not absolute contraindicated for surgery 3. External fixator can provide compression, stabilization and surgical off-loading 4. Osteomyelitis does not mean amputation 5. Follow up of the patient is mandatory during healing process. 	

2. Title	Scope On Medication Errors During Pregnancy In A Sample Iraqi Two Cities Sammawa & Diwania
Authors	Naryman Aziz Abass and Ali Salman Juail, Bassim I. Mohammad
<p>Aim: To evaluate the rate and extent of medication errors occurrence and its teratogenic risk during pregnancy in Iraq.</p> <p>Methods: A cross-sectional study of medication errors of 100 prescriptions dispensed to a pregnant woman in a sample of Iraqi two cities (Sammawa & Diwania) during October, 2016.</p> <p>A formal was used to collect data included the name of pregnant, age, trimester, doctor diagnosis, the drug dispensed and their dose, route, duration, frequency, strength and notes section. The formal filled during visits of the research team to pharmacies that most of the prescriptions they dispense are for pregnant women prescribed by a nearby gynecology & obstetric doctors.</p> <p>Then analyses of data to identify the medication errors that includes; inappropriate and irrational, ineffective, over and under prescribing and drug interactions using available literature and drugs.com drug interaction checker.</p> <p>Results: Total number of prescriptions involved in the study is 100 prescriptions, they contain 487 medication dispensed to the patients. The total number of medication errors identified was 364(74%), included 110 irrational & inappropriate prescribing, 47 over prescribing, 19 under prescribing, and 8 ineffective prescribing. The drug interactions were classified to drug-drug interactions 126 interactions identified and drug food interactions 54 interactions was recorded. 0.8 % of all interactions was major, 76 % moderate and 23% mild. Luminal(Phenobarbital) is the drug that caused the most of medication error that identified as it dispensed 23 times but all of these patient luminal was irrational and</p>	

inappropriate and it caused the most of interactions recorded as 44 interactions was caused by luminal. While dughaston (Dydrogesterone) was prescribed as 21 times, and this considered as irrational & inappropriate prescribing. Duvadilan (isoxsuprine) prescribed irrationally 17 times. The parenteral iron administered without sensitivity test nor calculating the dose depending on the body weight and blood Hb. Most of antibiotics and antifungal prescribed for incorrect duration or dose. The other errors were related to other drugs duration, dose and indication errors

Conclusion: Percentage of medication errors were high. Types of medication errors were mostly drug-drug interaction, irrational and inappropriate use. The impact of these medication errors may include teratogenic effect.

Key words: pregnancy, medication errors, teratogenicity risk.

3. Title	Catheter Ablation of Atrio Ventriculo Nodal Reentry Tachycardia (AVNRT), using the conventional method
Author(s)	Amar Alhamdi
<p>Background: AVNRT is the commonest type of SVT referred to the EP lab and it constitutes about 70% of the SVTs admitted to the Emergency Department. The mechanism of AVNRT is reentry where the slow pathway(SP) sited at the lower posterior region of Koch's triangle (KRA)near the coronary sinus orifice while the fast pathway higher up near the His bundle at the antero superior aspect of KTA. The catheter ablation becoming first line therapy in drug refractory cases and may be first option before drug treatment according to the patient preference or the hemodynamic deterioration due to the SVT.</p> <p>Patients and Methods: Seventy patients with AVNRT from a total SVT cases of 106 p referred to the cath lab for RF ablation. Standard technique for Electrophysiological study done to induce the tachycardia. Three EP catheters used in 90% of cases which include RA, His and RV and four catheters in 10% where CS catheter introduced. Atrial programmed stimulation(APS) with S1 400msc, S2 300-230 and S3 of 250-220msc used to induce the SVT in 85% of the cases and ventricular programmed stimulation(VPS) in 15% of the cases. Differentiation of the AVNRT from AT and AVRT done by ventricular entrainment where the PPI-TCL more than 115msc considered supportive of AVNRT and the pattern post VP is VAV where AT is excluded. Dry ablation catheter of 4 mm tip used to modify the SP near the CS OS. The appearance of JR or JBs was a sign of effective application of the RF. The success of ablation was indicated by failure to induce the tachycardia with A and V PS. The success rate was 90% with 4 years follow up and the recurrence rate was 5%. CHB developed in 3% who needed PP. The average total procedure time 45minutes and fluoroscopy time average 5 minutes.</p> <p>Results: The results in this study are similar to many previous studies. Catheter ablation was considered in drug refractory patients only in 50% of cases and in 25% in markedly symptomatic patient the RF ablation was first line therapy and in 25% in patient preference. The low complication rate and the high success rate make the procedure first line therapy in 75% of cases which may increase with more patient preference of the procedure over drug therapy.</p> <p>Conclusion: CRFA is becoming technically easy, safe and reliable as first line treatment in the majority of patients with AVNRT.</p>	

4. Title	The Effect of Stellate Ganglion Block on Intractable Lymphedema and pain after Breast Cancer Surgery
Authors	Assad Kadhem Nazeer, Hamed Abedalnabi Flaifel
<p>Breast cancer related lymphedema (BCRL) of the upper limb is a form of edema affecting 20% of breast cancer survivors, BCRL is caused by damage to the axillary lymphatic system during surgery or radiotherapy. Shoulder pain and limited joint mobility have been observed in patients with lymphedema.</p> <p>The response to conservative therapy varies between patients due to differences in compliance.</p> <p>Stellate ganglionic block can help to decrease pain and edema of the upper limb when repeatedly added for therapy .Three cases of BCRL were referred to the pain clinic treated by stellate ganglion block presented in this poster.</p>	

5. Title	Is Helicobacter pylori infections in immunocompromised children a risk factor for cancer ?
Authors	Amer Naes Amer, Janan G. Hassan, Ihsan E. Al-Saimary
<p>The frequency of Helicobacter pylori in children with malignancy was evaluate in the present study.</p> <p>Among 51 children included in the study ,29 children were in malignancy group (79.3% of them having positive one step diagnostic test), while 22 children were control group (54.5% of them having positive one step diagnostic test). H. pylori infection was significantly higher in the malignancy group compared to the control group($P < 0.05$); 44.8% having positive culture for H. pylori, while only 18.2% of control having positive culture for H. pylori. the results showing that there is no significant association between H. pylori and the type of cancer with $P > 0.05$. And there is a significant association between H. pylori and age more than 5 years with $p < 0.05$ which is statistically significant among patient groups. The results also showed that there is no significant association between H. pylori and sex among both patient and control groups with $P > 0.05$..</p> <p>Keywords: <i>H. pylori</i>, malignancy, children</p>	

6. Title	The role of preoperative and intraoperative evaluation in choosing surgical technique and predicting the result of rhinoplasty
Authors	Jabir R. Hameed
<p>Background: Rhinoplasty is one of the most tough actions plastic surgeons are asked to perform. A major problem for many rhinoplastic surgeons is the ability to predict preoperatively, the difficulty of the procedure whether the rhinoplasty will technically be easy or difficult to perform apart from the success rate of the result.</p> <p>The open rhinoplasty technique make possible accurate visualization of deformity and disharmonies in addition to take idea for precise nasal tip improvement. Thick skin envelope can mask many of surgical maneuvers that are undertaken to change tip shape. On the other hand, care should be taken to not over-resect cartilage in thin-skinned patients. Preoperative analysis and intraoperative assessment are fundamental for choosing the appropriate operative techniques.</p> <p>Tip modification is one of the most discouraging aspect of any rhinoplasty procedure, because of the complex interaction within the nasal tip, small subtle changes in suture placement have a complex impact on final long-term appearance.</p> <p>Complete facial and nasal analysis is often over-looked in rhinoplasty discussion, the anterior septal angle represents the critical cornerstone on which every open dorsal approach to rhinoplasty should begin.</p> <p>Safe exposure of the anterior septal angle allows the surgeon full access to the septum, dorsum and tip for harvesting of cartilage, and to allow restoration of the dorsum and the internal nasal valves and reshaping the tip.</p> <p>The deviated nose is a common problem seen by the rhinoplasty surgeon, correction of the deviated nose poses a challenge. Frequently the surgeons faced with both functional (air way obstruction) and aesthetic problem that must be addressed conjointly.</p> <p>Certainly an open approach to the septum for purely functional procedure cannot be taken lightly. Soft tissue triangles are one of the most challenging areas to reconstruct both in nasal reconstruction and secondary rhinoplasty. Modification of the lower lateral cartilage complex is must in modern rhinoplasty. The open approach to rhinoplasty has expanded the number of techniques available to help achieve an aesthetically pleasing tip.</p> <p>Nasal augmentation is popular modern technique used by east Asian people to change their often characteristic flat noses to more prominent one. Arabian nose shares with the Middle Eastern noses common traits with some variability, these include thick-sebaceous skin envelope with excessive fibro-fatty tissues, ill-defined plunging nasal tip, and weak lateral crurae relative to skin envelope. This will emphasize the importance of combining soft tissue reduction and strengthening of the tip by cartilaginous framework.</p> <p>Results: A total of 215 patients with rhinoplasty, 23.72% males & 76.28% females were studied for which 33.95% were done under local anesthesia. Pre-operative evaluation was done for functional and aesthetic disharmonies. The classification was done according to the techniques and the type of anesthesia and most of them tip refining as an outpatient surgery. Suturing technique applied with or without cartilage graft which is the cephalic part of the lower lateral cartilage. Septo-rhinoplasty was done for 46, 33.95% patients, 5 of them with sever nasal obstruction extracorporeal septoplasty done, debulking of the fibro-fatty tissue & rigid cartilage frame done mainly to columelar strut. Suturing technique done for thin skin patients. Seven patients have secondary & one had tertiary rhinoplasty.</p> <p>For most of the patients, 95% were satisfied with the new shape, 2 patients have breathing</p>	

problems, 1 developed infection, 2 patients seeking for secondary rhinoplasty. All patients with severe septal deviation had improved breathing after extracorporeal septoplasty.

Conclusion: Pre-operative functional and aesthetic evaluation including classification of the patients into groups according to cartilage framework, skin thickness, state of the septum, and type of deviation. Intraoperative assessment of the nose was done starting from the septal angle, thickness of the lateral crurae cartilage, and dorsal & caudal septal cartilage decide the type of technique used for fabrication of the desired shape of the nose and preserve the internal and external valve function. For simplicity, the three most important criteria that determine nose classification are, in order of priority, the profile view, the skin thickness and the frontal view. Analysis of the profile view should be performed first, followed by skin palpation and frontal view analysis.

7. Title	Establishing bowel cancer screening program in Iraq. Learning from the UK experience.
Authors	Dr. Laith Al Rubaiy
<p>Background: Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer and the second leading cause of cancer deaths, with over 16,000 people dying from it each year in the UK (Cancer Research UK, 2005. Cancer stats). About one in 20 people in the UK will develop bowel cancer during their lifetime. The prevalence of colorectal cancer in Iraq is possibly underestimated due to the lack of accurate statistical studies and documentation. However, studies suggested that its prevalence in the nearby countries is more or less similar to the rest of the world. Its incidence is expected to go up with the increase in the average age of Iraq population.</p> <p>The risk of colorectal cancer increases with age, eight out of 10 patients with colorectal cancer are above the age of 60. Both men and women are at risk. People with family history have an increased risk of developing colorectal cancer.</p> <p>In the last few years, bowel screening programs started in many countries including USA, UK, and the rest of Europe. Regular bowel cancer screening has been shown to reduce the risk of dying from bowel cancer by 16% (Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, 2006. It is based on detecting faecal occult blood in the stool and then referring people with positive results to have colonoscopy or CT colography. It has shown to be the most cost effective way in the early detection of bowel cancer.</p> <p>Objectives: This presentation aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To plan to work together to establish the first official screening program e in the area. 2. To review the current evidence based medicine on the prevalence and incidence of colorectal cancer. 3. To review the results of bowel cancer screening programs in UK, USA and the rest of the world. 4. To develop awareness of the importance of this program in improving the quality of life of patients as well as saving the government unnecessary hospital admissions. 5. To have an open discussion with the audience about the practicality and the potential difficulties in developing such program in Iraq. 	

8. Title	Malignant Solid Tumors in Basra Pediatric Oncology Center
Authors	Janan G. Hasan, Hussam M. Salah, Lamy'a J. Dawood
Speaker(s)	Janan G. Hasan, Hussam M. Saleh, Lamy'a J. Dawood
<p>Background: Malignant solid tumors represent about 50% of all malignant neoplasm in children aged less than 15 years. They make more than 80% of all malignancies in infants.</p> <p>Objective: To Present the characteristics of patients with various types of malignant solid tumors admitted to the Oncology center at Basrah Maternity and Children Hospital during the period from 2004 to 2009 inclusive.</p> <p>Methods: A retrospective study was carried out at Basrah Maternity and Children Hospital during the period from the 1st of January 2004 till the end of December 2009. Total cases of cancer admitted to the Center during that period were 704 cases, malignant Solid tumors represented 27.5% of total cases (194 cases). <i>One hundred sixty-five patients were included in the study</i>, their age ranged from one month to 14 years, 85 males and 80 females.</p> <p>Results: Sympathetic nervous system tumors represented the highest percentage (35.8%) followed by renal tumors (26.1%), soft tissue sarcomas (18.2%), germ cell tumors (10.3%), retinoblastoma (6.7%) and the least percentage was for hepatic tumors (3%). The highest frequency of malignant solid tumors was found in the age group of (1-4years), that included 79 patients (47.9%), most of them had neuroblastoma ;32 patients (40%). Most cases with malignant solid tumors were from the center and northern areas of Basrah (28.5%,14.6% respectively) and to a lesser extent from western (10.3%), southern (6%), and eastern areas (1.2%). Cases from Thi Qar and Maysan account for (21.8%,16.4% respectively) of cases.</p> <p>Conclusion: This study revealed that sympathetic nervous system tumors, the commonest of them was neuroblastoma Most cases presented in stage III or stage IV of the disease. So Improving the diagnostic facilities in Basra Oncology Center by introducing specific type of investigation for evaluation of patient with malignant solid tumors like metaiodobenzylguanidine (MIBG) scan, positron emission tomography (PET), genetic study, and other important biochemical investigations could assign the patient risk group, and not depending only on simple criteria for the classification of the disease.</p>	

9. Title	The Rate of Endophthalmitis Following Intravitreal Injection of Multipuncture Bevacizumab (avastin) Vial
Authors	Maitham Hashim Neamah
<p>Purpose: To determine the rate of endophthalmitis following intra vitreal injection of avastin from multipuncture vials.</p> <p>Methods: Nine 100-mg(4ml) vials of bevacizumab were used for intravitreal injections in period of 12 months. These vials were stored in refrigerator at 2-8c for 30 days. From each vial sample of 0.05ml of avastin was withdrawn and used within 7days,2-4weeks ,2months and 3months of opening. Sample were send for bacterial growth.188 patients who received these injections were followed for signs and symptoms of inflammations and endophthalmitis.</p> <p>Results: No evidence of endophthalmitis were detected in the 188 patients who received intravitreal injections from these vials with comparison to the control group.</p> <p>Conclusion: Using multi punctures vials of bevacizumab for intravitreal injection refrigerated at 2-8 is safe.</p>	

10.Title	High-Level of Notch 1/Jagged 1 Signaling Pathway Up Regulated Chemo-Resistance of Cisplatin in NSCLC: Inducing Metastasis and Poor Survival
Authors	Nasser Ghaly Yousif
<p>Lung cancer is the top ranked cause of cancer death worldwide and lung cancer alone, with NSCLC as the most prevalent of worldwide cancer death. Platinum-based chemotherapy increase survival rates and improves the life quality in patients, and many suggested pathways of the efficacy of cisplatin in treatment of NSCLC. Furthermore, Notch 1/Jagged 1 signaling-pathway has essential technique roles in the cell reproduction, existence, apoptosis, and differentiation that involved in the growth and action of more than one organ.</p> <p>Aim of study: This study aimed to identify the signaling pathway of Notch 1/ Jagged 1 in mechanistic action of cisplatin treatment of NCSLC.</p> <p>Method: Fifty patients having NSCLC were enrolled in this study include 37 patient’s male while females were 13 patients, with a median age of 42.5 years (range, from 33 to 76 years). Clinical factors such as sex, age, tumor site, size and grade, metastasis, and T.N.M. stage, were collected. Immunohistochemistry including the use of the method of avidin-biotin-peroxidase on all tissues, while patient blood sample use for total RNA and reverse transcribed and Kaplan-Meier method used for plotted the survival curves.</p> <p>Results: The degree of Notch 1/Jagged1 protein-expression were mainly more in patient include male more than the female (P<0.05). It’s clear; the expression levels of Notch1 proteins were in relation with grades of tumor and its pathological state. The expression levels of Notch 1/Jagged1 were strongly related (high or low) in patients not respond to chemotherapy and tumor progress or metastasis disease to lung or brain. The survival rate of patients with low expression Notch 1/Jagged 1 whom treated with cisplatin-based chemotherapy was 100% during 8-months of follow up. While patients with high expression of Notch 1/Jagged 1 whom treated with same protocol with cisplatin-based chemotherapy had survival rate 57% through same treated period.</p> <p>Conclusion: The present study concluded that High Notch-1/Jagged-1 levels expression invert a poor prognosis of NSCLC patients. Notch 1/Jagged 1 will provide a new approach to follow up NSCLC patients. Targeting Notch 1/Jagged 1 signaling pathway may represent a new strategy to decrease resistance of cisplatin based treated NSCLC patients.</p> <p>Key words: Cisplatin, Immunohistochemistry</p>	

11. Title	The Necessity for Routine Histopathological Examination of all Cholecystectomy Specimens
Authors	Noor S.Jumah, AbeerA.Al-Mowali, Rasha S..Manuel, Surra A.Al-Namil, Jasim M.Al-Diab
<p>Aim: To save time, cost and burden on histopathologists without affecting the patients' safety.</p> <p>Methods: A retrospective analysis of computerized histopathological reports of 1176 cholecystectomy specimens and the available patients' clinical data for the last ten years.</p> <p>Results: Analysis of 1176 cholecystectomy specimens during the last ten years, revealed five cases of primary invasive adenocarcinoma (0.42%) and one case of carcinoma in situ . Of the five invasive adenocarcinomas, three were stage pT3. One case was stage pT2 and one case was stage pT1b. In all cases of invasive adenocarcinoma, there was a clinical suspicion of malignancy before or during surgery with detectable macroscopical abnormalities that encouraged the surgeon to send the gall bladder for histopathological examination.</p> <p>Conclusion: Invasive adenocarcinoma of the gallbladder is associated with detectable macroscopical abnormalities in all cases. Hence histopathological examination could be restricted to the macroscopically abnormal looking gall bladders. Such a selection will save time, cost and burden on the histopathologists without affecting the patients' safety.</p> <p>Key words: Cholecystectomy, Gall bladder carcinoma, Histopathological examination.</p>	

12.Title	The role of human chorionic gonadotropin in the treatment of retractile testis
Authors	Sadik Hassan Kadhem
<p>Background: A retractile testis is the testis that can be brought down into the scrotum but then after a period retract upward outside the scrotum by the action of cremasteric muscle.</p> <p>Objective: This study was done to identify the effect of age of the patient, location of the RT, and whether unilateral or bilateral on the response to HCG therapy.</p> <p>Methods: A prospective study conducted in the pediatric surgery compartment in Basrah Children Hospital over 3 years (2013-2016). Thirty-two boys with a diagnosis of retractile testis (RT) are included in this study. All cases were treated with intramuscular injection of HCG as following: in boys aged 1-4 years: 1000 IU twice weekly for 3 weeks (total 6000 IU) and in those aged more than 4 years: 1500 IU twice weekly for 3 weeks (total 9000 IU). The response to treatment was evaluated in 2 weeks, one month, and 6 months after completing the course of treatment of HCG.</p> <p>Results: In this study the diagnosis of retractile testis was confirmed in 32 boys aged (1.25-9.5) years (mean: 5.28 years). Ten boys (31%) were with unilateral retractile testis. Twenty-two boys (69%) were with bilateral retractile testis. 15(27.7%) testes in the prescrotal area, and 39(72.2%) testes in the inguinal area. From a total 54 retractile testes; 40(74%) testes respond (descended into the scrotum). The mean age for responder was 5.49 years and the mean age for boys who did not respond was 4.69 years. Six (60%) of 10 unilateral retractile testes and 34 (77.3%) of 44 bilateral retractile testes respond to HCG treatment. Response to HCG occurred in 12(80%) of the pre-scrotal retractile testes, and in 28(71.8%) of the inguinal retractile testes. Re-ascending (recurrence) occurred in 6 (15%) testes.</p> <p>Conclusion: HCG treatment is an effective way of treatment of retractile testis especially in preschool children, bilateral cases, and in those with prescrotal testicular position.</p> <p>Key words: Retractable testis, Human chorionic gonadotropin,</p>	

13.Title	Whole Blood Transcriptomic Signature of Primary Sjögren’s Syndrome-associated Lymphoma
Authors	Shereen Jawad Al-Ali
<p>Aim: The underlying mechanism for lymphoma development in Primary Sjögren’s syndrome (pSS), which is an autoimmune condition, is only partially understood but it is generally thought to be a multistep process. This study aimed to identify a transcriptomic signature of patients with pSS-associated lymphoma which may help to improve our understanding of lymphomagenesis in pSS and biomarker discovery for pSS-associated lymphoma.</p> <p>Methods: Genome-wide expression analysis was carried out on whole blood mRNA samples from the UK primary Sjögren’s syndrome registry (UKPSSR) cohort comprising of 61 pSS patients without lymphoma and 16 pSS patients who had lymphoma. Differentially expressed genes between the lymphoma and non-lymphoma groups were identified and confirmed using RT-PCR and an independent cohort of 119 non-lymphoma, 17 lymphoma pSS patients. In addition, biological pathway analysis was performed.</p> <p>Results: The results revealed the identification of a 3-gene biosignature in pSS-associated lymphoma patients with the <i>BMS1</i> being downregulated in the lymphoma group whereas <i>MGST3</i> and <i>NUDT14</i> being upregulated. Furthermore, the expression levels <i>NUDT14</i> could be used to classify lymphoma and non-lymphoma cases. The downstream pathway analysis showed a different biological processes pattern in lymphoma patients in compare with the others groups.</p> <p>Conclusion: In pSS patients who had lymphoma, a biosignature to classify patients was identified including <i>BMS1</i> , <i>MGST3</i> and <i>NUDT14</i>. A unique pattern of downstream biological processes was confirmed in pSS-associated lymphoma group.</p> <p>Key words: Primary Sjögren’s syndrome, lymphoma, transcriptomic signature</p>	

14.Title	Number of Patients In Hospital & Primary Health Centers at Alzubair Province Before & After Application of Patient Referral System : A Comparative Study
Authors	Zaineb H Tahir
<p>Referral system: it's a systematic process that depends on the scientific method which followed by doctors in PHC while they refer patients to hospital Across sectional study to compared between the no. of patients visiting hospitals and PHC before and after the application of referral system</p> <p>Aim of study: 1- to know the effectiveness of referral system in decrease the no.if patients visiting hospitals 2- to show the most important difficulty that faced the applications of referral system And how to overcome it</p> <p>Methodology: It's cross sectional study done from April 2013 to June 2013 The data was collecting from statistical record on both Al-zubair hospital and Al-zubair primary health directorate The no. Of patient visiting both hospital and PHC during the year 2007 before the application of referral system and 2009 after application of referral system Taking in mind the increasing in population sensuous during these years and the no. Of medical and paramedical staff in both PHC and hospital Also we use a questionnaire to have a knowledge about the opinion of both population and medical about the referral system and the most important obstacles faced it</p>	

List of Participants

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