

## **MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS CLINIC OF BAGHDAD, AN ENDEAVOUR FOR AN UNRAVELING DATABASE**

**H. A. Mohammed**

*Baghdad Teaching Hospital, MS Clinic, Medical City, Baghdad, Iraq*

[dr\\_haidarali@yahoo.com](mailto:dr_haidarali@yahoo.com)

**Objectives:** This study was designed to find the frequency distribution of MS patients according to different demographic variables like the age at onset, age at diagnosis, gender and place of birth and residence, etc.

**Methods:** This retrospective study was carried out at the Multiple Sclerosis Clinic, Medical City in Baghdad/Iraq, which was up till 2008 the only MS clinic in Iraq. The medical files of 900 MS patients were thoroughly revised; they included all patients who had attended the MS Clinic from the day of its establishment at 2001 till the end of February 2008. Six hundred seventy six (676) patients were considered as MS patients.

**Results:** 1- Patient's distribution according to the clinical type of their MS was RRMS= 67.3%, PPMS= 19.1%, SPMS= 13.6%.

2- Main age distribution of this sample was between 30-39 years (39.3%).

3- Females were 64.9%, and males were 35.1%.

4- Age of onset was mainly between 20-29 years of age regardless of the gender or type of MS.

5- Diagnostic delay was mainly between 1-3 years.

6- Distribution according to place of birth was seen mainly in 3 geographical clusters in Iraq.

7- Motor symptoms were the commonest experienced by the patients (95.7%)

**Conclusions:** This study had shown that during the last 2 decades, MS was increasingly encountered in Iraq, particularly after the establishment of MS clinic of Baghdad; MS cases in Iraq distributed in a three-main-clusters pattern rather than North-South gradient. Primary progressive MS showed a more even gender distribution and older age at onset with the shortest diagnostic delay. Secondary progressive MS was the least common clinical type, with younger age at onset, and most severe disability.