

PREVALENCE OF ECZEMA SYMPTOMS IN MACEDONIA

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Aim: We present the results of our analysis of ISAAC phase III written questionnaire survey in schoolchildren related to the prevalence of eczema symptoms and their comparison between genders.

Materials and methods: In 2002 we examined 3026 children aged 13/14 years from 17 randomly chosen schools in Skopje, Macedonia. Collected self-reported data were statistically analyzed with Student t-test.

Results: The response rate was 90.87%. 51.81% were male, 48.18% female. Itchy rash ever coming and going for at least 6 months was determined in 6.7% (5.7% male, 7.9% female, $p=0.016$), itchy rash in the last 12 months in 4.3% (3.2% male, 5.5% female, $p=0.0019$), flexural areas affected ever by itchy rash in 2.9% (1.8% male, 4.0% female $p=0.0003$), rash completely cleared at any time during the last 12 months in 4% (3.5% male, 4.5% female $p=0.1594$), severe rash with night waking in the last 12 months in 1.5% (0.9% male, 2.1% female $p=0.0063$) and eczema ever in 3.7% of the children (2.5% male, 4.9% female $p=0.0004$).

Conclusion: Our prevalence rates of eczema symptoms are low if compared to those reported from ISAAC phase I in 1998. All prevalence rates, except that of rash cleared completely at any time during the last year, are significantly higher in female.

