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## Acta Medica Iranica

2009;47(4) : 15-25

### DYPHTHERIA IN TEHRAN, CAPITAL OF IRAN

N. Taghavi

#### Abstract:

This is clinical and epidemiological study of 101 cases of diphtheria patients. 44 of these patients were male and 57 female. The majority of patients were 6 to 10 years old. Winter with 45% of all the cases had the highest seasonal incidence. The common symptoms were sore throat and false membrane in either one or both side of the throat. 50% of the patients had complication and 24% died because of the disease. Palatal paralysis was seen in 35% of the cases and was fully recovered. The worst complication was myocarditis, which was seen in 25% of the cases, and accounted for 50 % of the deaths. Altogether 24 patients died of disease 11 male and 3 female. 62.5% of the deaths occurred in the first ten days of the disease. We can say that the first ten days are the most critical ones. In only 17% of the patients could a previous contact with a diphtheria case be determined. Previous immunization reduces the complications and death of diphtheria and of the 5 immunized cases only one developed palatal paralysis with early recovery. Finally most of the patients were from lower class families and were living in crowded parts of the city.

#### Keywords:

Diphtheria . Epidemiological study

TUMS ID: 1795

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