



Project(2): Chemical food preservatives and its relation to the prevalence of tumors in Egyptian population

Participated Students:

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Project Summary:

Many substances are added to food to prolong its storage and shelf life and to enhance color, flavor, and texture. The possible role of food additives in cancer risk is an area of great public interest.

The aim of the current filed to project is to survey the relationship between using some chemical preservatives in processed food and the prevalence of different types of tumors in Egyptian community, also, to assess the safety of additives approved for use in our community and increase the awareness of the community about the side effect of food preservatives and its cancer risk potential.

A questionnaire was designed carefully by the students and was use in their survey. The students then went to cancer-specialized hospitals in Alexandria, Behera, Cairo, and gharbeya (Elmery, Gamal Abdel Naser, Medical Research institute, Aiadi Elmostaqbal centre, Children's Cancer hospital 57357, Tanta cancer center, private hospitals, and tumor clinics), Markets, schools and other public places. They used the questionnaire on hospitalized patients and other individuals from the public; also they covered almost every place in Alexandria to collect as much useful and representable data as possible to identify the real parameters of the relation between food preservatives and cancer, the data were collected and statistically analyzed.



The results showed that:

- Females (59%) are more exposed to tumors than men (41%).
- 73% of patients having cancer were using canned food in their meals, however 27% of the patients were not.
- 67% of cancer patients were eating processed meat while 33% of them were not.
- The awareness of people for existence of tumors in food preservatives was high 59.5%.
- The majority of the community did not know about the types of food preservatives, as for the attendance of programs about food preservatives the majority said no but the highest percentage was interested in knowing more information about causes of tumor.