

EPILEPSY AMONG HEALTH INSURED WORKERS
IN ALEXANDRIA:
PART I: OCCURRENCE AND REGISTRATION

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INTRODUCTION

Epilepsy is a chronic neurological disorder which represents an important public health problem because of its serious economic implications as well as its social impact on the family and community (Gastaut *et al.*,1973; Baumann *et al.*,1977). In developing countries, the actual prevalence of the disease is not ascertain, as most of the available information are derived from hospital based data (Baumann *et al.*,1977; Zander *et al.*,1979; and Goodman,1983). It was estimated that in areas where medical care was insufficient, the total prevalence may reach 8/1000 of the population with frequent severe seizures reported to be 3/1000 population (Gastaut *et al.*,1973). The incidence rate of the disease was estimated by Kurtzke (1985) to range between 20 and 70/100,000 population and Garnieri (1983) reported that males are having higher incidence than females.

The best method for obtaining population based data is to develop registries of community health information. Through such registries, assessment of clinical course of the disease, identification of factors associated with its occurrence as well as evaluation of existing health care measures for its control could be conducted (WHO,1987).

The study was conducted with the aim of determination of ~~the~~ incidence and prevalence of epilepsy among health insured workers in Alexandria as well as assessment of the existing registration system and development of a new one.