PREVALENCE OF MASTOIDITIS WITH ACUTE OTITIS MEDIA IN CHILDREN

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Abstract
This study comprises fifty children suffering from otitis media (OM), aged between 1-14 years with no clinical signs of mastoiditis. (Cases which showed clinical signs of mastoiditis were excluded).

All cases were subjected to general and ENT examinations, tuning fork tests, pure tone audiometry and radiological examination of both mastoid regions. Out of 50 patients, 10 cases showed haziness or clouding of the mastoid air cells and were, thus, diagnosed as masked mastoiditis. All the ten cases were unilaterally affected, hearing loss was mild in eight cases and moderate in two cases. Seven cases responded to injectable antibiotics while the other three needed wide myringotomy with the antibiotic treatment.

Introduction
Otitis media "OM" is a common illness affecting the majority of children on at least one occasion before the age of 5 years (Senturia, 1976; Teele et al., 1980). The mastoid process is not a separate space and as long as the tympanic membrane is intact, the only direction in which the inflammation and secretion will spread is through the aditus to the mastoid antrum. The neighbouring air cells are drawn into infectious process either by gradual spread of infection from air cell to air cell or by blockage with fluid formation and proliferation of the mucosa (Palva et al., 1985). Mastoiditis occurs when the infection spreads beyond the mucoperiosteal lining to involve the compact bone of the mastoid air cells (Richardson, 1963).

The incidence of acute mastoiditis has declined precipitously since the introduction of effective