

**Childhood lymphomas in Yemen. *Clinicopathological study***

*To the Editor*

I read the interesting study by Al-Samawi et al<sup>1</sup> on childhood lymphomas in Yemen. Although childhood malignancies are rare comprising less than 1% of all malignancies diagnosed each year in developed countries,<sup>2</sup> the frequency of pediatric lymphomas (PL) in Yemen (29.7%) stated by Al-Samawi et al<sup>1</sup> is alarmingly high. I presume that the actual figure is higher than what is reported due to the following reasons: 1. Advanced immunohistochemistry techniques, namely, the World Health Organization (WHO) and Revised European-American Lymphoma Classification (REAL) technique were not utilized by Al-Samawi et al<sup>1</sup> as they were not available in Yemen at the time of the study. This indicates that a considerable number of potential PL, particularly doubtful or unclassified tumors, could not be included in the study. 2. A substantial number of PL might be misdiagnosed and mistreated in daily practice, particularly those residing in remote districts of Yemen, where poor medical facilities are often encountered. Hence, they did not undergo the optimal diagnostic confirmation and, therefore, they escaped medical registration. Actually, no antecedent published Yemeni studies are available now to evaluate the secular trend of PL. Though various genetic, infectious, environmental, and dietary factors are implicated worldwide in the pathogenesis of various malignancies including lymphomas,<sup>2-4</sup> the exact factors contributing to the

causation of PL in Yemen have not yet been evaluated. To overcome the burden of the anticipated growing magnitude of PL in Yemen, there is an immense need to implement wide-based national oncologic programs. This would help determine the exact epidemiological, clinical, and histopathological profiles of PL with the objectives of innovating suitable diagnostic, therapeutic, educational, and preventive interventions.

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*Reply from the Author*

**No reply was received from the Author.**

*References*

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**ERRATUM**

In manuscript "Diabetic profile of Pakistani pilgrims in Makkah during Hajj season 2007-2008." *Saudi Medical Journal* 2010; 31: 328-330, the author's name should have appeared as follows: Muhammad A. Sharif, Asad Mahmood, Javed-ur Rehman, Kaswar S. Ansari, Sajid Munir