Medical eponyms linked to Saudi Arabia

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In this editorial, we are going to shed some light on selected medical eponyms that are linked to Saudi Arabia. Medical eponyms are terms used in medicine which are named after people (and occasionally places or things).[1] Saudi Arabia as any other countries in the world have witnessed discovery of new microbes, diseases or syndromes that were reported by Saudi and non-Saudi authors. Some of these were later named with names of the authors who reported it or the place in which they were reported first. We have listed in **Table 1**,[2-7] some selected medical eponyms related to Saudi Arabia.

There are well known limitations of using medical eponyms in the medical literature. To start with, there might be debates whether a newly described condition is a new disease or just a variant of a well-known previously reported condition. In this regard, Al-Mayouf,[2] thought that the disorder, reported under the title of Al-Aqeel Sewairi syndrome, is in fact a variant of Nodulosis-Arthropathy-Osteolysis (NAO) syndrome, and they had studied 10 patients from 6 unrelated families in Saudi, and publish it before Al-Aqeel's report. On the other hand, confusion may occur between the 2, and more medical conditions sharing the same name of one

Table 1 - Selected medical eponyms related to Saudi Arabia.

The medical eponyms	Remarks
Al-Aqeel Sewairi syndrome	This medical eponym was cited in the Online Mendelian Inheritance in Man (OMIM), as a synonym for Torg-Winchester syndrome (OMIM, 259600). Torg-Winchester is an autosomal recessive multicentric osteolysis with predominant involvement of the hands and feet. The disorder was originally defined as 3 separate entities: Torg syndrome, Winchester syndrome, and Nodulosis-Arthropathy-Osteolysis (NAO) syndrome. In the 2006 revision of the Nosology of Constitutional Disorders of Bone classified Torg and Winchester syndromes as a single entity with NAO syndrome as a variant.[2]
Alkhumra virus	A new hemorrhagic fever virus, (misnamed as Alkhurma), reported first in Alkhumra district of Jeddah in 1994-1995. Jeddah is the largest city in the western part of Saudi Arabia. The virus has been reported from other areas both inside and outside Saudi Arabia.[3]
Medina worm	This eponym is no longer in medical use. The unusually high incidence of dracunculiasis [a parasitic disease caused by infection by Onchocerca volvulus, a nematode (roundworm)] in the city of Medina [The holy city in the west of Saudi Arabia, where the Prophet Mohammad (Peace Be Upon Him) died} led to it being included in part of the disease's scientific name "medinensis." A similar high incidence along the Guinea coast of West Africa provide the disease its more commonly used name" Guinea worm". The worm is no longer endemic in either location.[4]
Sakati-Nyhan-Tisdale syndrome	It is cited in OMIM as synonym for Acrocephalopolysyndactyly type III (OMIM 101120).[5] The disorder is reported in a single male.[5] The calvaria was large and the face disproportionately small. All cranial sutures were fused. The ears were dysplastic and low-set. Maxillary hypoplasia, dental crowding, prognathism and short neck with low hairline were features. A sixth digit had been removed from the right hand. The feet were adducted and showed polysyndactyly with 7 toes on the right and 6 toes on the left. The tibias were hypoplastic and the fibulas were deformed and displaced. The chromosomes were normal. Advanced parental age supported new dominant mutation as the cause. No other cases have, it seems, been reported.
The Sanjad-Sakati syndrome	It is cited in OMIM as synonym for Hypoparathyroidism-retardation-dysmorphism syndrome. The Sanjad-Sakati syndrome (SSS),[6] (OMIM 241410), is an autosomal recessive trait characterized by congenital hypoparathyroidism, growth and mental retardation, seizures, and a characteristic physiognomy, was recently linked to chromosome area 1q42-q4319.
Woodhouse-Sakati Syndrome	It is cited in OMIM as synonym for Hypogonadism, alopecia, diabetes mellitus, mental retardation, and extrapyramidal syndrome (OMIM 241080). Woodhouse-Sakati syndrome (WSS) is a rare autosomal-recessive disorder characterized by a combination of hypogonadism, alopecia, diabetes mellitus (DM), mental retardation and extrapyramidal signs. It is reported first, in a total of 7 Saudi Arabian individuals from 2 consanguineous families.[7]

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author. In the context of this communication, there are more than one syndrome which contains the name of Sakati, a well-known pediatric geneticist, at King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Another limitation is that, naming the new microbes or diseases after a place may cause misconceptions. The readers might think that those microbes or the diseases which named after a place exist only in that place which is not true. For example, Medina worm, which was thought to be endemic in Medina, is no longer exist in there. Similarly, Alkhumra virus, which was first reported in Alkhumra, have also been reported in other places inside and outside of Saudi Arabia.[3] However, in spite of the above well-known limitations of using eponyms, we are in favor of its continued use in medical literature for several reasons mentioned by other.[1] One of them is that many medical conditions are best known by its eponymous name. Second, the eponyms remind the readers about some historical aspects of the disorders and who reported it first.

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