

ASSOCIATION OF ALLERGIC DISEASES IN FEMALE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WITH SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS AND MARKERS OF ESTROGEN LEVELS

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The research into the risk factor of allergic diseases have become in recent years the subject of many papers. According to the 'hygiene hypothesis', changes of the living condition and lifestyle in industrialized countries are associated with the higher prevalence of allergy. The potential influence of estrogens on the occurrence of allergy has been also suggested.

The aim of this study is to investigate the association of allergic diseases in female students with socioeconomic factors and sex-hormone markers, including: age at menarche, menstrual disorders, selected anthropometric indices.

The research was conducted among 670 female university students. The measurements of body height, body mass, waist and hip circumference were taken Each person completed a questionnaire The occurrence of allergy was determined on the basis of answers to the questions whether the allergy and its allergens were defined on the basis of medical research.

Significantly larger number of cases of allergies was recorded in students from high SES families than in students from low SES families. Allergy were more frequent in students who lived in the city in their childhood than in the students who lived in the country. The prevalence of allergy was inverse correlated to the number of siblings. There were no differences in the prevalence of allergy in relation to the birth order. None of the analysed factors associated with estrogen levels was associated with the allergy, however, among early maturing students there were slightly more allergic person than among average and late maturing students.