## EPIDEMIOLOGY AND CHARACTERISTICS OF PAGET'S DISEASE OF BONE (PDB) IN THREE DIFFERENT ITALIAN TOWNS

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Previous epidemiologic survey on Italian cases of PDB provided evidence for a geographic clustering in Campania with an increased prevalence of PDB in rural than in urban areas and a significant association with animal contacts. We performed a larger epidemiological study in the towns of Turin (Piemonte, Northern Italy), Siena (Tuscany, Central Italy), and Naples (Campania, Southern Italy). Data were collected by detailed questionnaires and clinical analysis. 321 PDB patients (75 in Turin, 121 in Siera, and 1.25 in Naples) and 240 age and sex matched controls were analysed. No significant diffe er cos between PDB patients and controls concerning hair colour, height, on veight. An increased greval ance of clear eye colour in PDB than in controls was observed. To are was a slight male production and ince, with a male to female ratio of 1.3:1. According to bone scan and X-rays, 108 were classified as monostotic while 213 as polyostotic PDB. 60 PDB patients (19%) had at least one family member affected and were defined as familial PDB. There was a consentration of cases in rural with respect to urban areas. In contrast, a reduced prevalence of PD3 vac observed in the urban areas of Siena and Turin. We observed an overall significant association between FDI and collacts with animals, with some differences in animal families emone the different areas. The analysis of demographic and immigration history of PDB patients from Turin and Siena showe I ar in cleased prevalence of cases with actual or previous residency in Campaıııa. The mean number of affected sites and the number of polyostotic cases were higher in PDB subjects from Campania. An elevated use of unpastorised milk was also observed. Such differences appeared mol evident when familial PDB cases from Campania were considered. Finally, neoplastic degeneration of PDB was observed in 6 patients from Naples with respect to none of the 196 patients from Siena and Turin. Results from the present study confirm the geographical clustering and an increased prevalence of PDB in rural districts. Increased clinical severity and peculiar clinical characteristics in the higher prevalence area of Campania are also evident.

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