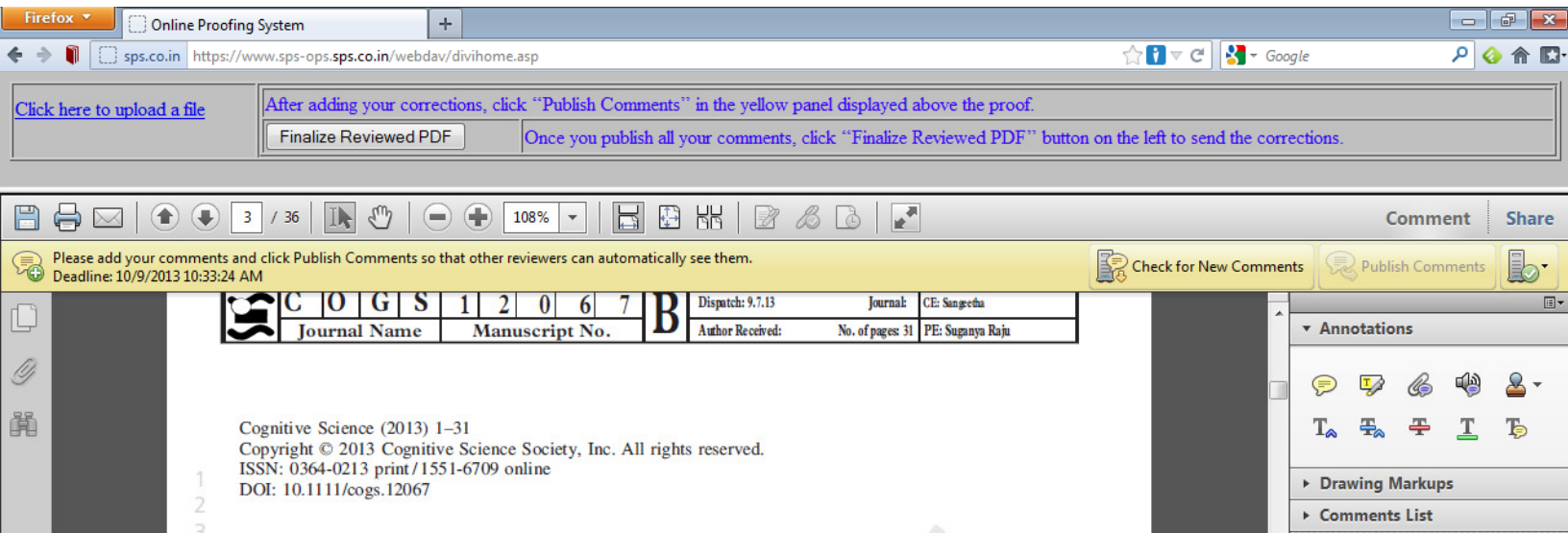


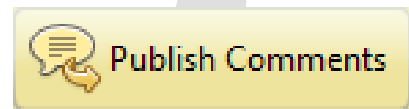
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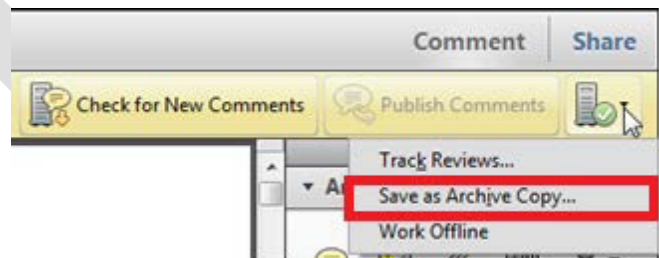
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LETTER

Cardiovascular risk factors among Egyptian university students in relation to residence

To the Editor:

Early identification and treatment of modifiable risk factors of young adults would reduce the possibility of heart attack saving money to their countries (1). So, this study aimed to investigate the prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors among young Egyptian students in relation to residence.

Subjects and methods

This research was conducted by Clinical Research Center, Tanta University and involved 518 students from different faculties of the university, starting from January to May 2012.

The students' age ranged from 18 to 25 years with mean age 21.6 ± 1.3 years. Students with a known history of angina or myocardial infarction were excluded from the study. The study protocol was approved by the Research Ethics Committee Tanta University, Egypt. This study has been performed according to the Declaration of Helsinki. Accepted participants were interviewed and a written informed consent was obtained.

This study adopted the widely known questionnaire of the American College of Sports Medicine (2). Participants were asked to answer the questionnaire and blood sam-

ples were taken under the direct supervision of researchers. The questionnaire contained the following items: family history, sedentary life, cigarette smoking, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, high blood glucose and obesity, whereas high-density lipoprotein cholesterol was the only negative risk factor.

The total score of risk factors should be from -1 to 7. According to the total risk factor score, participants were classified into three classes: low-risk factors (asymptomatic with score ≤ 1), moderate-risk factors (asymptomatic with score 2-7) and high-risk factors (symptomatic 'frequent chest pain Individuals or who have a known cardiovascular, or pulmonary disease').

Statistical analysis was carried out using Minitab version 16, USA. Chi-squared test and two sample *t*-test were used to identify any differences in risk factors distribution in relation to residence. $p < 0.05$ was considered significant.

Results

About 32 participants were dropped out of the study as a result of incomplete questionnaire meaning that only 486 students completed the study. The female and male participants were 326 (67%) and 160 (33%),

respectively. About 45.2% ($n = 220$) were rural residents, whereas 54.8% ($n = 266$) were urban residents.

The prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors is presented in Table 1. Their descending order was as follows: sedentary life 49%, family history 40.3%, obesity 16.8%, hypercholesterolaemia 15.6%, smoking 4.9%, high blood pressure 3.3% and high blood glucose 2%. The percentage of cardiovascular risk classes is represented in Table 1. Low-, moderate- and high-risk factors represented 58.5%, 40.4% and 1.1% of sample, respectively.

The distribution of cardiovascular risk factors between urban and rural areas is presented in Figure 1. There was a significant difference in the distribution of obesity, high blood pressure and hypercholesterolaemia (13.6%, 0.9% and 10% for rural vs. 19.5%, 5.2% and 20.3% for urban, respectively, χ^2 test, $p < 0.05$). Moreover, there was a significant change between urban and rural in only total cholesterol values of participants (159.8 ± 23.2 for urban and 135.2 ± 21.2 for rural areas, two sample *t*-test, $p < 0.05$) as shown in Table 1.

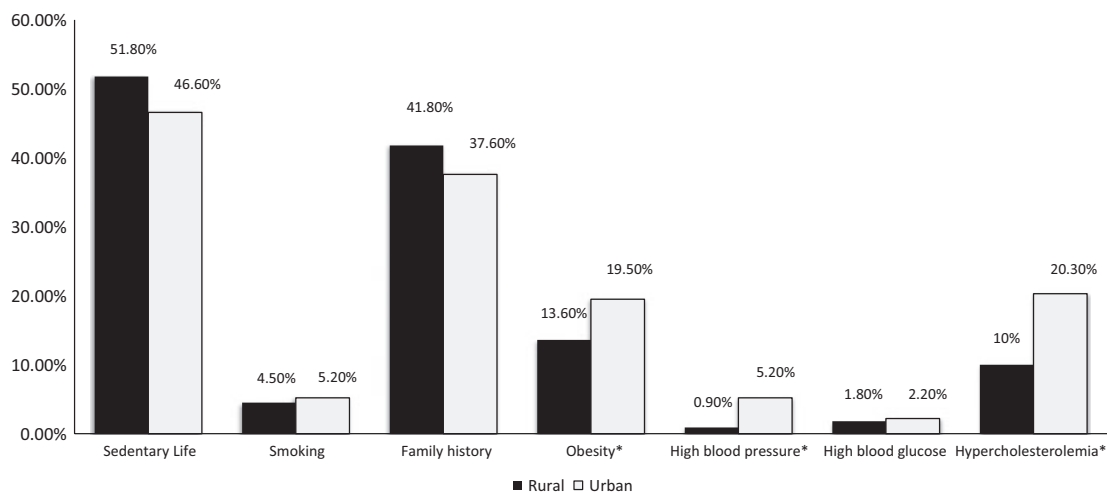
Discussion

The primary focus of this study was to assign the prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors

Table 1 Distribution of cardiovascular risk factors and classes

	Total (n = 486)		Urban (n = 266)		Rural (n = 200)	
	Risk factor incidence (%)	Mean values of participants (mean \pm SD)	Risk factor incidence (%)	Mean values of participants (mean \pm SD)	Risk factor incidence (%)	Mean values of participants (mean \pm SD)
Sedentary life	49	-	46.6	-	51.8	-
Smoking	4.9	-	5.2	-	4.5	-
Family history	40.3	-	37.6	-	41.8	-
Obesity	16.8	BMI = 22.6 ± 3.2	19.5*	BMI = 23.0 ± 2.1	13.6	BMI = 21.6 ± 2.2
High blood pressure	3.3	SBP = 103 ± 19.6 DBP = 75 ± 10.6	5.2*	SBP = 106 ± 16.3 DBP = 78 ± 5.1	0.9	SBP = 100.4 ± 12.8 DBP = 72 ± 7.6
High blood glucose	2	FBG = 93 ± 11.2	2.2	FBG = 94.9 ± 10.2	1.8	FBG = 96.8 ± 13.3
Hypercholesterolaemia	15.6	Chol = 145 ± 19.2	20.3*	Chol = $159.8 \pm 23^*$	10.6	Chol = 135.2 ± 21.2
Risk factor class [‡]						
Low (%)	284 (58.5)		156 (58.6)		128 (58.1)	
Moderate (%)	196 (40.4)		106 (40.6)		90 (40)	
High (%)	6 (1.1)		4 (1.5)		2 (0.9)	

BMI, body mass index; SBP, systolic blood pressure; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; FBG, fasting blood glucose; Chol, cholesterol. *Significant difference between urban and rural areas ($p < 0.05$). [‡]Low risk is identified by score ≤ 1 ; moderate risk is identified by score from 2 to 7; and high risk is identified symptoms presence as identified by the American College of Sports Medicine in 2000.



* Significant difference in cardiovascular risk factors distribution ($p < 0.05$)

Figure 1 The percentage distribution of cardiovascular risk factors in rural and urban areas. *Significant difference in cardiovascular risk factors distribution ($p < 0.05$)

among university students in Egypt. The topic of the article is novel, and there is little published on this subject for the young population.

The major findings of this study revealed a relatively high frequency of sedentary life, family history (non-modifiable), hypercholesterolaemia and obesity among participants with relative low incidence of smoking, hypertension and hyperglycaemia.

Earlier study on young adults of Brazil showed that there was sedentary life (57.3%), obesity (19.4%), hypertension (1.1%), diabetes mellitus (0.6%) and family history of cardiovascular disease (86.3%) of participants (3).

The overall prevalence of sedentary life was 49% indicating that bad exercise habits might affect a large proportion of adults in Egypt. Our results were supported by earlier studies, which showed high incidence of sedentary life with ranges from 57% to 64% among cardiovascular risk population (3,4). The high incidence of obesity in our study could be explained by adverse nutritional habits that were observed in a large number of participants added to the absence of regular exercise. Earlier studies supported our results (3,4). Also, hypercholesterolaemia was evident in 15.6% of participants of this study. An earlier study showed that about 24% of university students in England had hyperlipidaemia (5).

This study revealed that about 58.5% of the participants had low-risk factors. Those people only required regular check up for risk factors on regular basis with adhering to preventive measures. About 40.4% of students were at moderate risk. This high incidence of moderate-risk factor indicated the importance of initiating preventive programme for the control and the management of cardiovascu-

lar risk. Only 1.1% of participants had high cardiovascular risk factor. Despite the low incidence of high risk, those students were advised to contact physician to start a therapeutic plan (2).

An earlier study in USA showed that about 59% of young adults had one or more of the following coronary heart diseases (CHD) risk factors: family history, smoking, hypertension or obesity concluding that CHD risk factors are common in young adults (6).

This study indicated that urban areas showed higher incidence of cardiovascular risk factors (obesity, hypertension and hypercholesterolaemia) than rural one. In addition, cholesterol levels of urban participants were higher than rural participants. These differences can be simply attributed to environmental factors and lifestyle differences such as getting less healthy dietary habits such as junk food, low exercise and high stress of life in urban areas (7). Earlier studies gave controversial results. Oladapo et al. showed similar prevalence of risk factors in rural like in urban population (8). In contrast, Vrdoljak et al. indicated the presence of distribution difference in cardiovascular risk factors between urban and rural regions (9).

In conclusion, the majority of Egyptian students showed a relative great risk of cardiovascular risk, which necessitates the starting of prevention programme. These preventive programmes should be more focused in urban regions.

Acknowledgement

This study was supported and funded by Clinical Pharmacy Research Center in Tanta University.

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Disclosure

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

doi: 10.1111/ijcp.12370

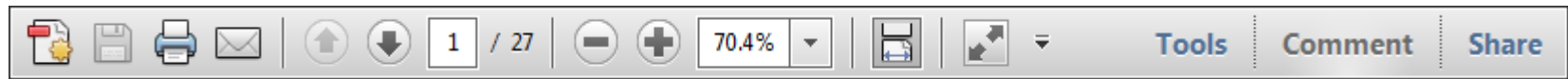
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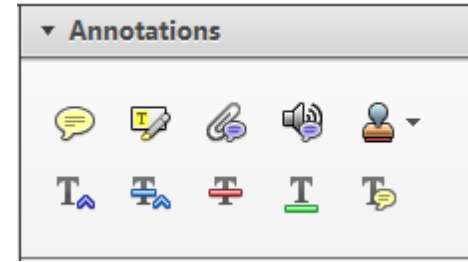
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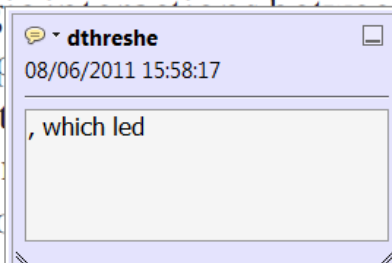


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standard framework for the analysis of microeconomics. Nevertheless, it also led to the emergence of a new paradigm of strategic behaviour. The number of competitors in the industry is that the structure of the market is a key component. The main components of the market, at the industry level, are exogenous variables. The important works on this subject by Shirasaka (1987) and henceforth) we open the 'black b



2. Strikethrough (Del) Tool – for deleting text.



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How to use it

- Highlight a word or sentence.
- Click on the [Strikethrough \(Del\)](#) icon in the Annotations section.

there is no room for extra profits and the number of competitors are zero and the number of firms (net) values are not determined by the number of firms. Blanchard and ~~Kiyotaki~~ (1987), in their paper on perfect competition in general equilibrium, show that the effects of aggregate demand and supply shocks in the classical framework assuming monopolistic competition are an exogenous number of firms

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Highlights text in yellow and opens up a text box where comments can be entered.

How to use it

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dynamic responses of mark-ups consistent with the VAR evidence

sation of the market with well-labelled demand curves. The number of competitors and the impact of aggregate demand on the market is that the structure of the sector is also with the demand-



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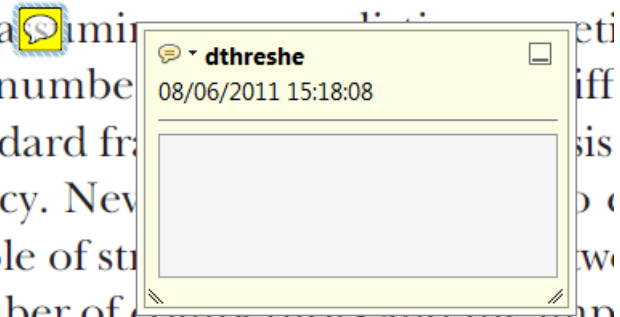


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and supply shocks. Most of the time, the number of firms in the industry is that the structure of the sector is also with the demand-



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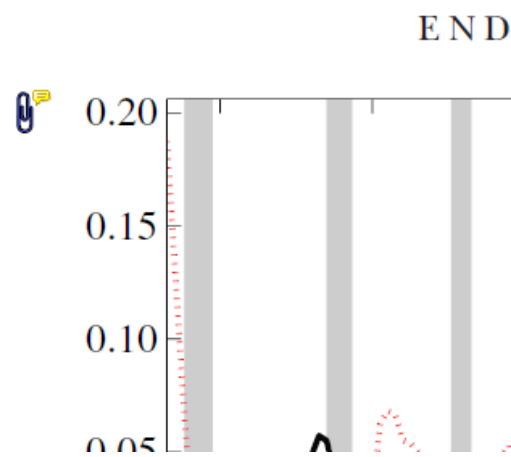
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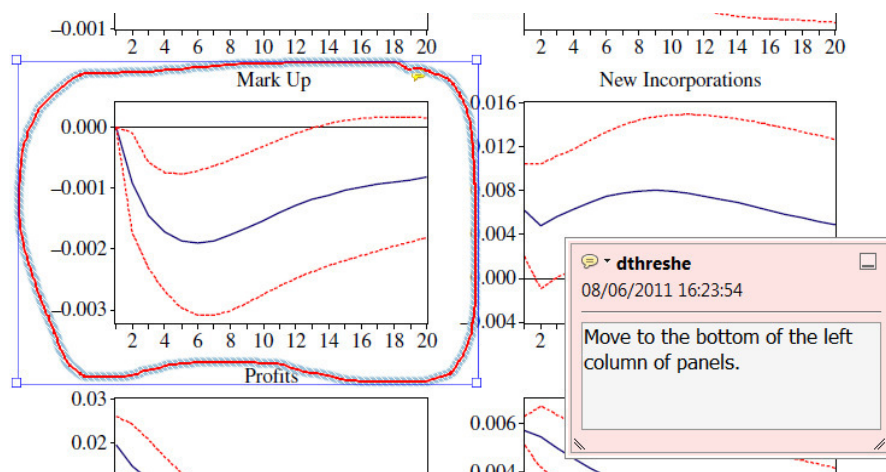


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