

Aim of the study : this study was conducted to compare the clinical symptoms of chronic maxillary sinusitis

, plain x-ray (Water's view) , CT scan of the maxillary sinuses and the results of antral lavage .

Material and Methods: 150 patients had been examined at the otolaryngology department of Al-Diwaniya teaching hospital and diagnosed as chronic maxillary sinusitis.

Plain x-ray (Water's view) and CT scan done to all of these patients. Radiological features of chronic sinusitis

found in 118 patients , 84 bilateral (71%) and 34 unilateral (29%) , the radiological findings classified as well aerated , mucosal thickening , fluid level, haziness and complete opacity .

Antral lavage done to 202 sinus and return classified to be clear, mucoïd , mucopurulent and frank purulent .

Results: plain x-ray and CT scan show sinus opacity in 32 patients (16%) , haziness 80 patients (39 %) , fluid level 54 patients (27%) , mucosal thickening 36 patients (18%).

False negative plain x-ray found in 8 patients ,while false positive found in 14 patients . The antral lavage return was 100% purulent in opaque sinus , while hazy sinus shows 50% purulent , 31% clear , 19% mucoïd

. Fluid level 80% purulent , 18.5% mucoïd , 1.5% clear .

Mucosal thickening 55.5% clear , 44.5% mucoïd return .

Conclusions: radiological findings of maxillary sinus opacity is the most reliable evidence of sinus infection followed by fluid level .

Water's view gives good information about sinus pathology but CT scan is the most sensitive radiographic modality for the diagnosis of chronic sinusitis.