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

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, mucoid, 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% mucoid.

Fluid level 80% purulent, 18.5% mucoid, 1.5% clear.
Mucosal thickening 55.5% clear, 44.5% mucoid 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.