

INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE WORK

Bronchial asthma is the most common cause of long term respiratory disease in children, and it is a major cause of school absentism (*Phelan, 1991*).

Nawadays asthma is considered to be a chronic inflammatory disease. The inflammatory process may be induced by many factors (*Banes, 1991*).

Changes in the gastro intestinal bacterial flora may affect this inflammatory process leading to increase the severity of bronchial asthma. This may occur through many mechanisms, including immunological mechanism, precepitation of respiratory tract infection through aspiration of oropharyngeal secretions or vomitus containig anaerobes as dominant gastro-intestinal flora and release of many chemical mediators that affect the severity of bronchial asthma (*Polosukina, 1989*).

From the above mentioned observations, this work was desiged to study the relation between the gastro-intestinal flora and the severity of the attacks of bronchial asthma.