INTRODUCTION

Helicobacter pylori is a major contributor to the gastrointestinal disease burden worldwide and is the causative agent in peptic ulcer disease, gastric adenocarcinoma, and mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma ***(Uemura et al.; 2001)***.

Acquisition of Helicobacter pylori infection appears to occur predominantly in childhood, although it is generally accepted that infection occurs early in life ***(Goodman and Correa, 1995; Rocha et al., 2003; Rodrigues et al., 2004; Mendall and Northfield,1995, Malaty, et al.; 2002).***

Routes of transmission and protective factors against infection have not been firmly established. One source of controversy has been breastfeeding and its relationship with H. pylori infection status. Breastfeeding has been firmly established as a method of preventing infectious diseases in infants ***(Wright et al.; 1998).***

Thomas, et al. (1993) demonstarted that anti-H. pylori IgA in human breast milk was associated with delayed age of onset of H. pylori infection. However, previous epidemiologic studies of the relationship between breastfeeding and H. pylori infection have reported conflicting results**.** However not all authors agree that breastfeeding is protective against H.pylori infection (Rothenbacher, et al.; 2002).

AIM OF THE WORK

A study of the prevalence of H. pylori infection in exclusively breastfed compared to artificially fed infants in Benha in Qalubiya governorate.