INTRODUCTION

Gastric or peptic ulcer is an open sore or raw area in the lining of the stomach (gastric ulcer) or the upper part of the small intestine (duodenal ulcer) **(Christian, 2004)**. Although the exact etiology of the disease is unknown. But it is expected that the imbalance between defensive and aggressive factors is the cause of peptic ulcer. Available information supports a central role of Helicobacter (H) pylori **(Lawrence and Walter, 1998).** Also, Severe physiologic stress as Burns, CNS trauma, Surgery and severe medical illness have a role in induction of gastric erosions **(Levenstein, 1998)**

The role of glucocorticoids released in response to stress in the pathogenesis of stress-induced gastric erosions has been re-evaluated. **(Filaretova et al., 1998).** Glucocorticoids and gastric ulceration have been discussed in many contexts. Various types of gastric damage as acute stress erosions and peptic ulcer disease have been considered. **(Perretti et al., 1992)**. Administration of corticosteroid antagonist prevents the action of corticosteroids released in response to stress on its receptors, causes a significant increase in the incidence of gastric mucosal changes which suggest a gastroprotective action of endogenous corticosteroids **(Filaretova et al., 1998)**.

On the other side, the effect of exogenous corticosteroids on gastric mucosal changes is important to be studied as corticosteroids given in pharmacological doses could not only damage the gastric mucosa but also affect its regenerative system. So, it could delay ulcer healing in the stomach **(Carpani et al., 1995)**. Even if exogenous corticosteroids are given at non-ulcerogenic doses, they could worse the ulcer healing

process as they affect cell proliferation and angiogenesis at the ulcer site **(Jiing et al., 2003)**. That suggest ulcerogenic effect of exogenous corticosteroids. While other study by **Gretzer et al (2001)** suggest that dexamethasone, a potent corticosteroid, did not induce gastric lesions So, the ulcerogenic effect of exogenous corticosteroids need more studies to be cleared.