INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE WORK

Vitamin A is known to fulfill a number of biological functions in various animal and human tissues during fetal life. It is required for growth, for cellular differentiation and for normal development of fetuses ***Koussoulakos and Anton (1991).***

Chan et al., (1993) stated that vitamin A levels of the term infants were significantly higher than those born preterm.

Very low birth weight infants have little storage of hepatic retinol (vitamin A) and are therefore highly dependent upon an exogenous supply ***Greene et al., (1987).***

The birth weight of the neonate correlates with its serum vitamin A level thus gestational age must be taken into account when interpreting vitamin A levels.

In this study we will investigate the degree of association between maternal and neonatal vitamin "A" status in relation to each other as well as maternal age, parity, and nutritional status of the new born. Also we will study the contribution of vitamin "A" deficiency to the prevalence of low birth weight and neonatal anemia, also we will compare the level of vitamin A in preterm infant (35 case) to its level in full term infant (15 case).