

INTRODUCTION

Meningitis is an inflammation of leptomeninges.

It may be caused by bacteria, viruses or rarely fungi. Bacterial meningitis is a common complication of septicemia in children and must be treated as an emergency.

A limited number of bacteria are of ending causes of meningitis in normal hosts. Thus, the principles of supportive management and the initial choice of antibiotics can be generalised.

Bacterial meningitis in childhood carries a significant mortality and morbidity. So accurate and rapid diagnosis is very important [Finlay et al, (1995)].

The microbiological culture for CSF depends on the time it takes for the organism to grow under culture and may results in a delay of 18 hours or longer. Even after such a delay cultures may fail to yield growth because of previous antimicrobial treatment. So, rapid detection of bacterial antigen is important when the child has meningitis to facilitate prompt and appropriate antimicrobial treatment [Williams and Hart et al, (1988)].