

## **Introduction and aim of the work**

Newborn infants are prone to severe infections and sepsis. The newborns particularly the preterm infants are immunocompromised in several ways, which predispose them to infection (Hague, 1992). Neonatal sepsis is a clinical syndrome of a systemic illness accompanied by bacteremia occurring in the first month of life (Gotof 1996).

Cytokines are a group of protein cell regulators variously called lymphokines, monokines, interleukines and interferons. Cytokines such as tumor necrosis factor and interleukin - 1 B play a major role in the initiation of the host response to infections.

Interleukin 1 receptor antagonist (IL-1ra) is a naturally occurring antagonist of interleukin-1.

### **Aim of the work:**

The aim of the present work was to study plasma level of IL-1ra in newborns with sepsis and also we investigated level of IL-1B in septic newborn. We tried to discuss and evaluate the role of each in the morbidity and mortality of neonatal sepsis.