

## INTRODUCTION

Herpes simplex virus infections of man can produce diseases ranging in severity from mild gingivo-stomatitis to life threatening encephalitis. In addition, herpes simplex virus has been implicated in the aetiology of certain human cancers. The period of greatest susceptibility to primary herpes virus - I infections occurs between the age of 6 months to 2 years, since maternal antibodies are passively transferred transplacentally into the foetus. These antibodies are lost during the first 6 months of life. Herpes simplex virus-I antibodies begin to appear in the population in early-childhood, but antibodies to Herpes simplex virus-II appear during the adult age (period of sexual activity).

## AIM OF STUDY

The aim of this work is to compare saliva versus serum in an ELISA test for the demonstration of seropositivity to HSV in the community and to assess the feasibility of using saliva instead of serum in the assessment of immunity against HSV in Egyptian population.