INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE WORK

Neonatal sepsis is a clinical syndrome characterized by systemic signs and symptoms and bacteremia during the first month of life ***(Odio, 1995)***.

Inspite of the use of the potent antibiotics and intensive supportive care, sepsis is still a major cause of morbidity and mortality during the neonatal period ***(Adriaanse, 1996).***

Macrophages and other reticuloendothelial cells stimulated by microorganisms or endotoxins elaborate a variety of biologically active mediators known as cytokines ***(Tracey et al., 1989)***.

Interleukin-6 is involved in T-cell activation and B-cell differentiation and is a major inducer of acute phase protein. ***(Heinrich, 1990)***.

Buck et al. (1994) indicated that IL-6 in cord blood is a very early marker in the diagnosis of early onset sepsis.

The purpose of this work is to study IL-6 as an early predictor for neonatal sepsis compared to other established measures as HSS ,CRP and blood cultures .