INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE WORK

The immunological system is that part of a host defence mechanism which include the macrophages, the leucocytes, the lymphocytes, the complement system and physical barrier such as motile cilia.

Its primary function is to protect against invasion by infectious agents.

The major cost of this protection are allergy, auto-immunity and rejection of the organ transplanted (**Hong** , 1983).

Rheumatic fever and consequently rheumatic heart disease are major medical and social problems. Many theories have been postulated for the pathogenesis of rheumatic fever among which is the immunological theory.

Acute rheumatic fever is a delayed, non suppurative sequelae of pharyngeal infection with the group A beta-haemolytic streptococci. In its classic form, the disease is an acute febrile illness characterized by inflammatory lesion of the heart, joints, and subcutaneous tissue. The clinical manifestation are quite variable but ordinarily include carditis, polyarthritis and chorea in varying combination (Markowitz et al., 1965).

Several attempts have been done to explain exact pathogenesis of rheumatic fever. A number of reports published recently have suggested the evidence in favour of an immunological process (Kaplan, 1978).

Our aim is planned to determine the pattern of immunological process and to review immunological basis in rheumatic fever.