INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE WORK

Meningitis indicates an inflammation of the leptomeninges covering the brain and the spinal cord as a result of bacterial infection or others as viruses, spirochetes, mycoplasma, toxoplasma, brucella and fungal infections ***(Kinght et al, 1981).***

The disease is fulminating and life threatening infection in infancy and childhood in most developing countries including Egypt ***(Mahmoud et al, 1990).***

Rapid diagnosis and prompt treatment remain the corner stone of management of patients with bacterial meningitis ***(Moosa et al, 1995).***

Laboratory examination of CSF is not available in many parts of the world (including developing countries), and without knowledge of CSF glucose, proteins, and cells, a diagnosis of [illegible] may be missed. In addition, many physicians do not

be wasted while specimens are transported to a laboratory, processed and evaluated ***(Swartz et al, 1988).***

Reagent strips that measure glucose, protein concentration, and white blood cells (leukocyte esterase test) in blood or urine have been used to evaluate CSF with varying results ***(Moosa et al, 1995).***

The aim of this study is to assess the efficacy of the combur9 reagent strips as a rapid screening test for bacterial and nonbacterial meningitis, comparing their results with the physical, chemical, cytological and bacteriological examination of CSF.