INTRODUCTION

Intercellular adhesion molecule-1 (ICAM-1) is a cytokine-inducible adhesion molecule expressed on a wide range of cells. It also may be exist in a soluble form circulating in serum (cICAM-1).

cICAM-1 contains most of the extracellular domain of membrane bound ICAM-1.

cICAM-1 probably released from a variety of cells. It is detected in supernatant of lymphoblastoid cells & cultural peripheral blood mononuclear cells ***(Rothlein et al., 1991)***. It also may be released from leucocytes & endothelial cells at site of inflammation in the circulation and serum level may therefore be used to give an indication of immune activation and inflammatory processes ***(Nouri Aria et al., 1995)***.

No information is currently available on sites of cICAM-1 degradation ***(Pirisi et al., 1994)***.

Some recent studies have demonstrated increase in cICAM-1 in liver diseases ***(Horiike et al., 1994, Mandy and Nagy., 1995 and Nouri Aria et al., 1995)***.

It is not exactly known about the mechanism of this increase, is it related to the effect of inflammation, the reduction of functioning hepatic mass or to the impairment of the hepatic biliary excretion.