INTRODUCTION
AND
AIM OF WORK

Introduction and Aim of Work

Alteration in blood constituents have been used for many years as indicators of the presence of malignancy. A variety of enzymes, hormones, plasma proteins , protein degradation products and immunologically related cellular and humoral substances have been used for markers in the diagnosis and management of cancer in man **(Carter et al., 1981)** .

Among the tumor associated antigens, carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA) is the only established and clinically useful tumor marker for colorectal cancer and other CEA producing tumors **(Go and Zamcheck, 1982)** .

In the other hand, sequential determinations of other tumor antigen; tissue polypeptide antigen (TPA) in colorectal carcinoma, for a retrospective evaluation of their utility as a marker of recurrent tumors showed about 60% sensitivity to recurrence **(Fucini et al., 1987)** .

Acute phase reactant proteins (APRPs) are too insensitive as early tumor markers of gastrointestinal malignancies. A rise in APRPs accompany many disease states including acute and chronice inflammation, connective tissue disorders, pregnancy and malignancy **(Bastable et al.,1979)**.

Also, several alkaline phosphatase isoenzymes have been identified in a wide variety of tumor tissues and in patient's sera . Alkaline phosphatase

isoenzymes has been found in the sera of up to one - third of patients with most types of gastrointestinal neoplasms **(Mercer and Talamo, 1985)** .

This study will deal with the correlation of histopathological and clinical findings and the serum level of certain markers in some cases of gastrointestinal neoplasms .

The markers to be studied will include carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA), tissue polypeptide antigen (TPA), alpha-1- acid glycoprotein (AAC), aplha - 1 - antitryprin (AAT) and alkaline phosphatases (ALP) both total & isoenzymes .

The aim is to declare the usefullness of such parameter as tumor markers that help in better management in gastrointestinal malignancies .