SUMMARY

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The aim of the present work is to study one of the acute phase reactant proteins (C-reactive protein) in the sera of tuberculous children to detect changes of this protein in association with T.B. infection, after anti-tuberculous treatment.

30 patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis were randomly chosen from the outpatient chest clinic of the new children hospital - Cairo University.

Diagnosis of tuberculosis was based on a positive family history of contact, suggestive symptoms and signs of tuberculosis and diagnostic aids such as positive tuberculin reaction and chest radiological findings as well as positive bacteriological analysis.

20 subjects free from tuberculous lesion of the same age range and sex distribution were used as controls.

C.R.P. measurements were carried out in sera of subjects before and after anti-tuberculous treatment, by LATEX METHOD.

The results obtained were compared with the results obtained with the other workers.

They were 13 males and 17 females, with age ranging from 6 months to 13 years. A positive family history was present in 53% of patients. On clinical grounds, patients comprised 21 cases of tuberculous hilar lymph node (70%), 3 with tuberculous pneumonia (10%), 2 with bronchiectasis (6%), 2 with miliary tuberculosis (6%), 2 with tuberculous pleural effusion (6%).

In the present study levels of C.R.P. were found to be high in (83%) of tuberculous cases with high statistical difference as compared to the control group which all gave negative results. In the 30 patients studied before and after receiving anti-tuberculous treatment, there was statistically significant decrease ($P < 0.05$) in C.R.P. level after begining the treatment. This was due to the effective anti-tuberculous treatment and so they suggested that the efficiency of such treatment might be monitored by C-reactive protein. A significant decline being expected two days after the start of treatment.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The present study, thus demonstrates the importance of one of the acute phase reactant proteins, namely the C-reactive proteins which showed significant rise during tuberculous infection. Its value as regards the follow up of the patients is also evident, since it returned to normal with proper treatment. Also C.R.P. could be an important parameter as indicator of reactivation of dormant tuberculous foci in these patients.

Tuberculosis is still rife in Egypt. Every system can be affected by tuberculosis. Unfortunately, serious forms of the disease as miliary tuberculosis and tuberculous meningitis are still present in the community. B.C.G. vaccine is of a great value in prevention and it should be compulsory for every new born. Besides, every effort should be made to raise the socio-economic and hygienic standards inorder to eradicate this disease from our country.