

**INTRODUCTION
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THE WORK**

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Diarrhea is the dominant cause of excessive morbidity and mortality in the pediatric age group in the developing countries (Khashaba et al 1986). In EGYPT diarrhea is the commonest disorder affecting Egyptian infants under two years of age and the most frequent cause of morbidity and mortality among them (Gabr 1983). The serious disturbances in diarrhea is that occurs in water and electrolyte metabolism (Khashaba et al 1986). One of these disturbances is hypernatremic dehydration which is the most serious type of dehydration as it is a well recognized cause of permanent brain damage or death in infants with diarrheal diseases (Clarke et al 1979).

Accordingly the aim of this work is:

- I. To study the incidence of hypernatremic dehydration in infants with acute gastroenteritis.
- II. To study the different factors that may contribute to hypernatremia to conclude the measures which may lower the incidence of hypernatremia.