INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE WORK

Asthma is a common disease in children, which has often been underdiagnosed in the past because there has been both lack of recognition and also confusion about it definition. Warner et al 1989, 1992 have been defined asthma as "episodic wheeze and/or cough in a clinical setting where asthma- is likely and other rare conditions have been excluded. The disease itself covers a wide spectrum of symptoms from those patients who have only occasional wheeze in response to respiratory tract infection, to others who have daily symptoms of chronic airway obstruction, precipitated by a wide variety of extrinsic and intrinsic factors. There has also been a considerable increase in our understanding of the basic pathology of this condition, although a great deal more remains to be learnt.

The present emphasis is chiefly concentrated on the acute inflammatory response which occurs in the lung in virtually all patients with recurrent wheeze (Holgate et al 1994).

Both IL-1 α and TNF-α has an upregulatory effect on C3 generation by bronchial epithelium, these observations may improve our understanding of the inter relationship between human respiratory epithelium and the complement system, and add to our understanding of local inflammatory mechanisms that may affect local airway defence, tissue integrity, and airway function.

The aim of our study is to explore the clinical importance of serum IL1 and C3 in the assessment of bronchial asthma.