INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Asthma in children is mostly of an allergic etiology (Pepys, 1973) . Sometimes the allergen is missed and the patient is diagnosed as instrinsic asthma or asthma of unknown etiology (Johansson, 1981).

Serum IgE is well known to be a valuable index in diagnosing immediate hypersensitivity i.e. atopic asthma (Johansson, 1981).

Also in vitro tests as challenging basophils from allergic individuals with certain antigens and determining the degree of degranulation is also well known (Hirsh and Zastrow, 1972).

The aim of our study is to find whether there is any correlation between total serum IgE and basophil degranulation with certain antigens; also, whether there is any correlation to the nutritional status and severity of the asthma.

Material & Method:

Fifty asthmatic children suffering from extrinsic atopic asthma are going to be studied. A trial to find the causing antigen is going to be done. This will be achieved by a detailed history, skin testing to common inhalants & some food allergens by prick method, and total serum IgE. Measurements of growth parameters (weight, height, and skull circumference) will be done.

Basophil of the same patients will be challenged with few imporcant antigens. Measurements of basophil degranulation will be done.

A correlation between skin testing, total IgE, and challenged basophil degranulation will be studied.