
Plasma and cerebrospinal fluid tumor necrosis factor. @ in meningitic children

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Bacterial meningitis is a serious clinical condition, and an early and reliable diagnosis is of great importance to the outcome of the disease because of the necessity of immediate therapy, the results may even be obscured if the patient had received antibiotic treatment beforehand. The present work aimed at studying the TNF- α value in both plasma and CSF of patients with acute meningitis for early diagnosis and differentiation between bacterial meningitis. The study was carried out on 50 children with age ranged from 6 months to 12 years categorized into four groups, acute bacterial meningitis group and control group. In the present study TNF- α was present in the CSF of 14 out of 15 cases with bacterial meningitis with a mean value = 891.33 pg/ml at the time of admission. All other 3 groups viral, partially treated, and control had non significant values of TNF- α in their CSF less than 35 pg/ml.