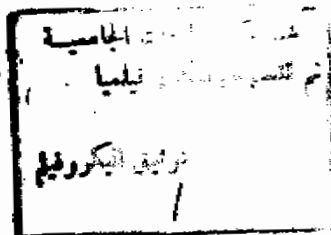


**A STUDY OF SERUM LEVEL OF INTERLEUKIN-6
(IL-6) IN CHRONIC LIVER DISEASES AFFECTING
EGYPTIAN CHILDREN**

*Submitted for partial fulfilment of
M.Sc. degree in Paediatrics*



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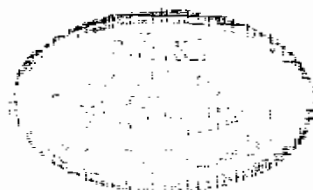
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الاسمى



TO MY MOTHER

List of abbreviations

* AAT.D	Alpha-1-antitrypsin deficiency .
* AL.ph.	Alkaline phosphatase .
* ALT.	Alanine transferase .
* APPs	Acute phase proteins .
* AST	Aspartate transferase.
* BA	Biliary atresia
* CAH	Chronic active hepatitis
* CLD	Chronic liver diseases
* CLH	Chronic lobular hepatitis
* CPH	Chronic persistent hepatitis
* CRP	C-reactive protein
* CT	Computarized tomography
* EHBA	Extrahepatic biliary atresia
* HBV	Hepatitis B-virus
* HCV	Hepatitis C-virus
* IL-6	Interleukin-6
* KA.U	Kingarmstrong unit
* NANB	Non-A non-B
* PBC	Primary biliary cirrhosis

* PT	Prothrombin time
* PTT	Partial thromboplastin time .
* SGOT	Serum glutamate oxaloacetate transaminase
* SGPT	Serum glutamate pyruvate transaminase

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INTRODUCTION

Introduction

Chronic liver diseases in children are common paediatric problems particularly in developing countries (DeBelle and Lester ., 1975) . Liver diseases contributes a considerable cause of morbidity and mortality in Egypt (WHO. 1982) .

Approximately 0.5-1.5% of patients admitted to major teaching hospitals in Egypt suffer from chronic liver diseases (CLD) (Nooman ., 1984).

Cytokines are hormone-like proteins which co-ordinate differentiating cells and maintain or restore physiological homeostasis. They are essential for communication not only between the liver and extra-hepatic sites but also within the liver itself (Andus et al ., 1991).

The liver represents an important site of synthesis and also a major clearance organ for several cytokines (Andus et al ., 1991).

Interleukin-6 (IL-6) is a cytokine with pleiotropic activities that plays a central role in host defense (Shegal ., 1990, VanSnick ., 1990) .

In liver diseases, cytokines are involved in the onset of intrahepatic immune responses (e.g. during viral hepatitis) in liver

regeneration (e.g. after partial hepatectomy) and in the fibrotic and cirrhotic transformation of the liver such as chronic chemical injury or viral infection (Andus et al . 1991).

AIM OF THE WORK

Aim of The Work

The aim of this work is to study the serum levels of interleukin-6 in chronic liver diseases among Egyptian children and to find out if it has prognostic, diagnostic or therapeutic value in these diseases or not.