Ain Shams University
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ANTINEUTROPHIL CYTOPLASMIC ANTIBODIES (ANCA) IN CHRONIC RENAL FAILURE AND IN THE HAEMODIALYZED PATIENTS

Thesis
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Internal Medicine

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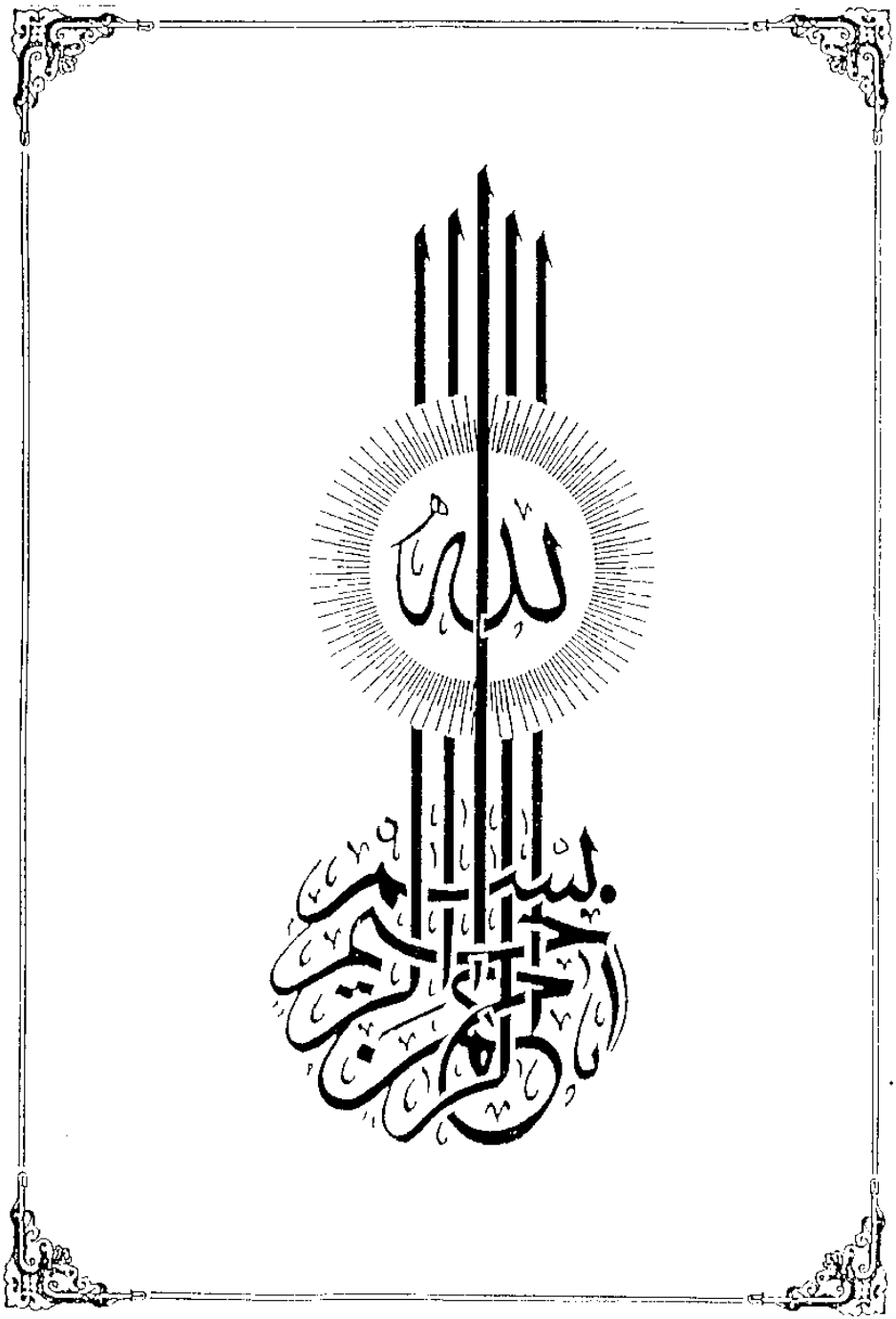

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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Previous investigations noted a high prevalence of autoimmune phenomenon in dialysis patients (Nolph *et al.*, 1978; May *et al.*, 1988).

The introduction of antineutrophil cytoplasmic autoantibodies (ANCA) testing and more recently of specific enzyme linked immunosorbent assays (ELISAs) to detect myeloperoxidase (MPO) and proteinase-3 (PR-3) antibodies have revolutionized the diagnosis of vasculitis with glomerulonephritis (Indemann *et al.*, 1987; Weidemann *et al.*, 1993). While sensitivity and specificity of these procedures have been well examined in acutely ill patients, no systemic information is available for patients on renal replacement therapy.

Testing for ANCA by indirect immunofluorescence (IIF) and ELISA is of interest from two points of view:-

* On one hand false-positive tests may expose the patients to the hazard of ill-advised immunusuppressive treatment (Davenport, 1992).
* On the other hand, a positive test results may identify the patient in whom the diagnosis of vasculitis has been missed and who is in need of further work-up and possibly cyclophosphamide treatment.

AIM OF THE WORK