HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS AND ADULT LYMPHOMA IN EGYPT

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Master Degree in Internal Medicine

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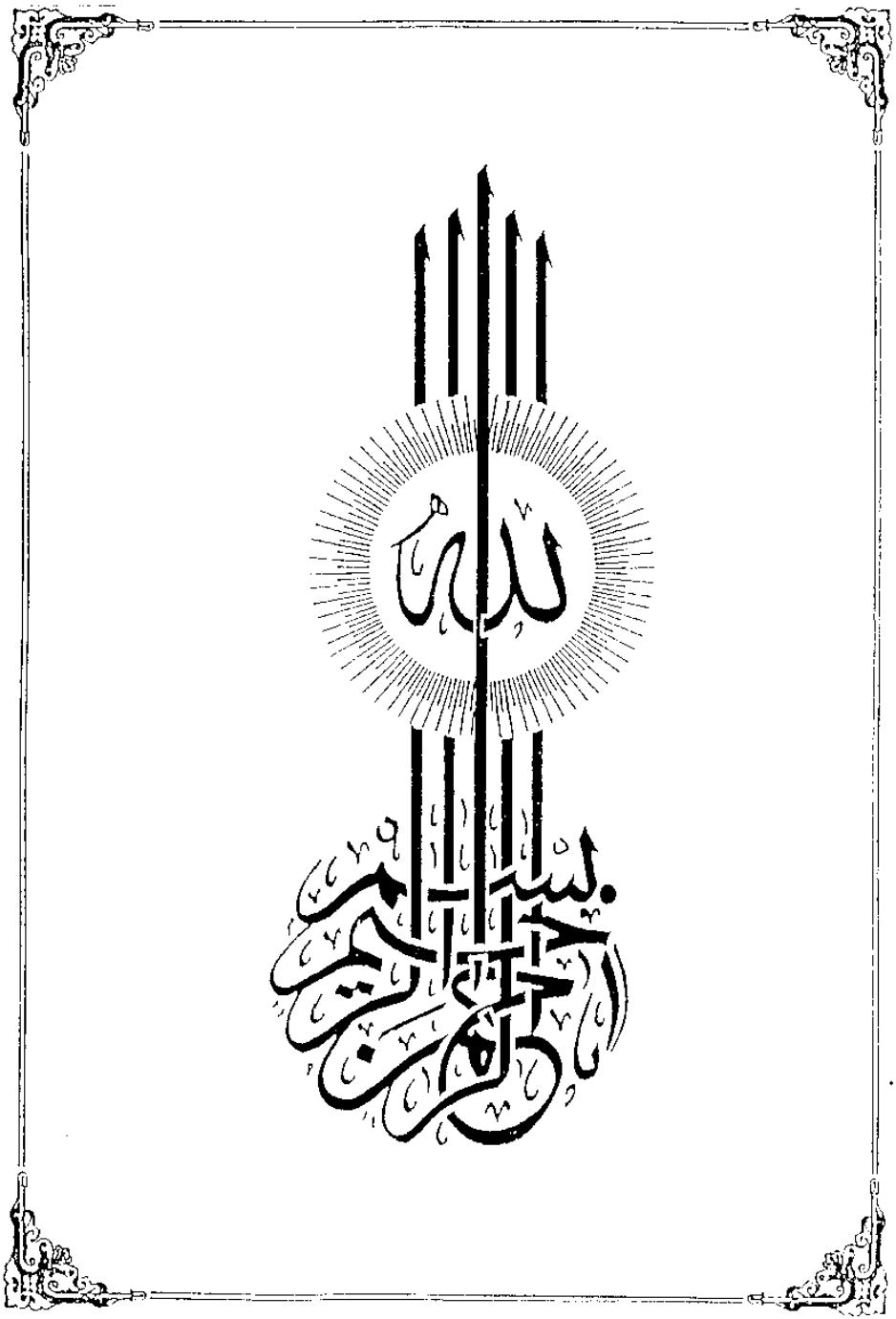

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

CONTENTS

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Introduction & Aim of The work

INTRODUCTION

There is now an increasing evidence that many lymphoproliferative disorders can be related to infectious viruses, such as Epstien Barr virus in Burkitt's lymphoma (**Shiramizu et al, 1991**) and Hodgkin's disease (Brousset et al, 1993), HTLV-I in T-cell Leukemia/Lymphoma (**Gallo, 1991**).

On the basis of recent epidemiological observation, a fraction of lowgrade NHL also seems to be related to a viral infection. In fact, the group of immunocytoma is closely associated with HCV (**Mazzaro et al, 1996**). Thus the possibility of preventing the transmission invokes new treatment strategies for hematological malignancies.

Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome-related lymphoma is a serious opportunistic complication of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection which is predicted to increase in frequency over the next few years.

The presence of this malignant process in HIV-related individuals, who are already immunocompromised constitutes a major cause of morbidity and mortality, determining both therapy and prognosis (**Denton et al, 1996**).

The incidence of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) is greatly

increased in HIV-infected individuals. The vast majority are clinically aggressive B-cell-derived neoplasms exhibiting Burkitt's lymphoma (BL) or large cell lymphoma (LCL) histology. Approximately 80% arise systemically (nodal and/or extra-nodal) and the remaining 20% arise as primary CNS lymphomas (**Knowles, 1996**). Possible factors contributing to lymphoma development include HIV-induced immunosuppression, chronic antigenic stimulation and cytokine overproduction; overexpression of the cytokine interleukin-6 and interleukin-10 may have a role in the pathogenesis (**Sandler and Kaplan, 1996**).

AIDS-related NHL remains an important biologic model for investigating the development and progression of high-grade NHL as well as NHL's that develop in immune-deficient hosts.

AIM OF THE WORK

The aim of this study is to investigate for the presence of HIV infection among newly diagnosed Egyptian Lymphoma Patients at presentation.

Their immunological status represented by estimating CD_4/CD_8 ratio will be determined as well.