SERUM ATRIAL NATRIURETIC FACTOR IN CIRRHOTIC PATIENTS

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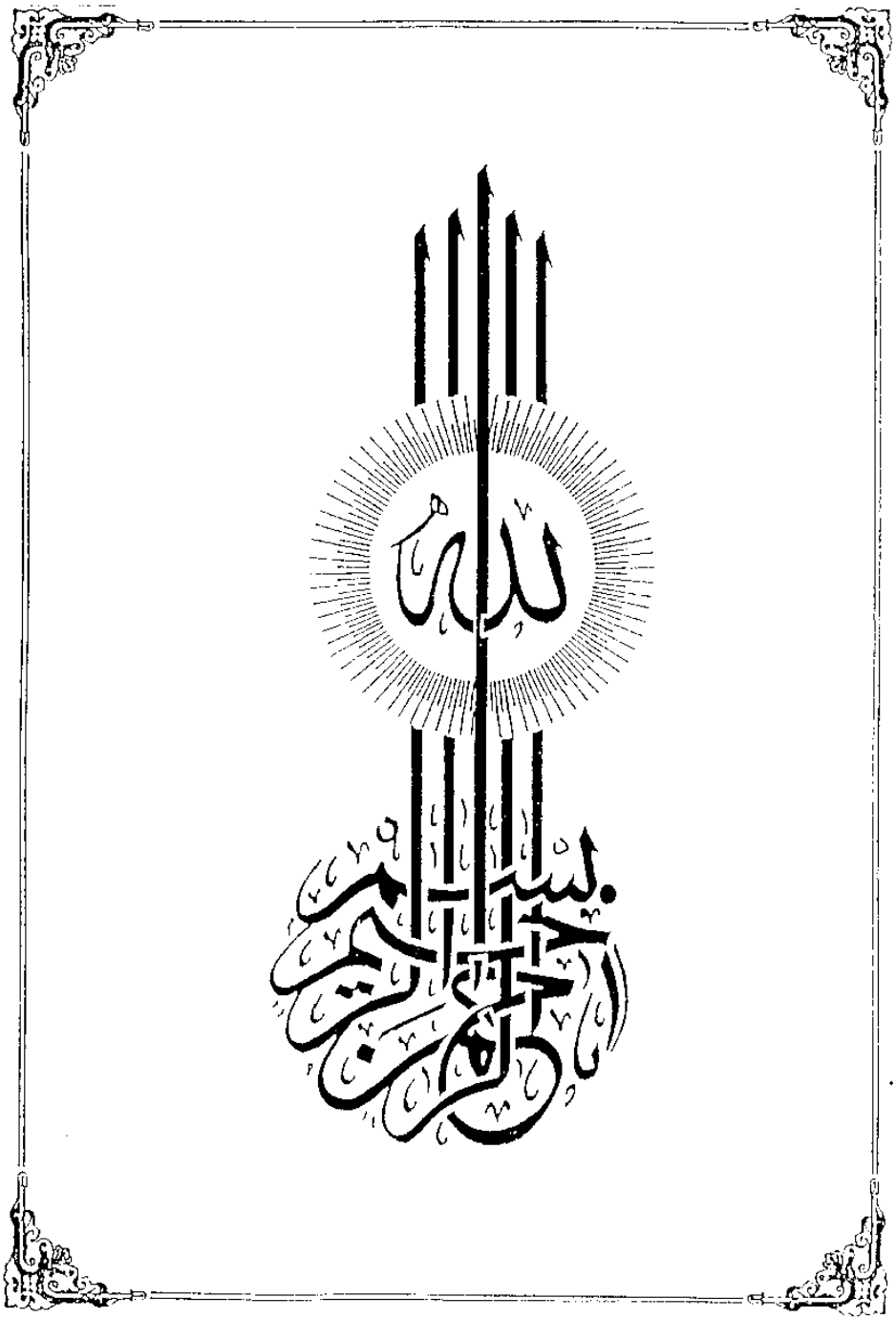

Acknoledgement

ALL PRAISE IS DUE TO ALLAH

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Introduction

Atrial natriuretic factor "ANF" is a natriuretic hormone with physiological significance. Its primary function in human is to regulate sodium homeostasis in response to changes in intravascular volume (cardiac atrial stretch). Induction of excess renal sodium excretion and extracellular volume shift appear to be the effector mechanisms of ANF (Zeeuw et al., 1992).

It was suggested by Frenandz et al., (1994) that in cirrhosis arteriolar vasodilation and peripheral arteriovenous shunting infleunce renal function while inducing a state of overflow at central venous compartment leading to increased ANF secretion. The result of their study have proved that plasma ANF increased in patients with cirrhosis.

Aim of the work

This work aims at studying the roles and the changes of atrial natriuretic factor in cirrhotic patients "infants and children" with and without ascites in comparison with healthy matched age and sex children.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE