

Nephropath Teaching Point 10

Autoantibodies in systemic autoimmune diseases

Most readers (42.86%) have agreed that among the given choices (anti dsDNA- SLE, Anti-U1 snRNP- MCTD ,anti scl 70- Ankylosing spondylitis, RA factor- Rheumatoid arthritis,cANCA- Wegeners granulomatosis, anti RNA Polymerase- scleroderma renal crisis), anti scl 70 antibodies and ankylosing spondylitis have the weakest association. Additionally, the strength of association between RA factor and Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is also under scrutiny.

Though RA factor has been long used as a serological marker for RA , large variations in its levels in clinically undisputable cases of RA were always an issue. The development of [of anti-citrullinated protein antibody \(ACPA\) assays are now considered superior to RA factor assays](#) and reportedly have a stronger association with disease severity.

[Anti RNase polymerase III antibodies](#) have been found [useful in cases of scleroderma renal crisis](#).

[anti U1 sn RNP antibodies](#) and [anti scl 70 \(anti Topoisomerase 1 antibodies\)](#) are important biomarkers in patients with MCTD and systemic sclerosis.

Good reviews on this topic by [Evans](#) , [Ho & Reville](#) are recommended for further reading.

Posted on 16-9-2012