Autoantibodies: The mystery revealed

Connective Tissue Diseases

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Firstly described in 1979, in patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc)

- Family: antinuclear autoantibody (ANA)
- Target antigen: Topoisomerase I, a 70 kDa nuclear basic protein
- Highly specific for SSc: up to 40% of patients
- Negative Predictive Value: 90-100%
- Positive Predictive Value: 25 %
- Present in 4% of patients with systemic lupus erythematosus

Anti-ATA (anti-ScI-70) antibodies

- •Main disease: Systemic sclerosis (SSc)
- •Included in the international 2013 ACR-EULAR classification criteria for SSc; weight = 3 points.
- •Mainly detected in **diffuse cutaneous forms** (71%), tends to be

associated with:

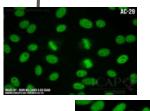
interstitial lung disease (40%) pulmonary hypertension digital ulcers (60%)

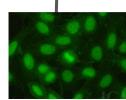


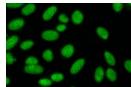
- Strongly associated with a severe systemic course poor prognosis and worse survival rate
- •Associated with a higher risk of cancers along with anti-RNA polymerase III

Screening Confirmation Immunodiffusion **ELISA** Line/dot blot Technique Indirect immunofluorescenc immunoassay e IIF on HEp-2 cells. **Advantages** detects false Quantitative Sensitivity 96% sensitivity (20%) positives in specific Specificity Specificity 98% Specificity (100%) (99%) and Sensitivity (97%)Low specificity 54% Semi Requires longer time Limits Cost Lack of sensitivity quantitative Cost

IIF patterns on HEp-2 cells: Speckled +/nucleolar, +/- homogeneous







ANA negativity does not exclude the presence of anti-ScI-70:

The use of a confirmation technique is required if strong clinical suspicion



