

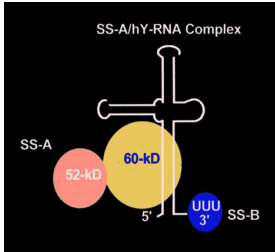
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- First described in **1975**
- **Family** : Anti-extractable nuclear antigens (ENA)

- **Target antigen**: different epitopes on polypeptides associated with small RNAs (scYRNA) situated mostly in the cytoplasmic compartment (70%) and few in the nuclear compartment (30%)



- The SS-B/La antigen consists of a 48 kDa protein

Anti-SS-B/La antibodies

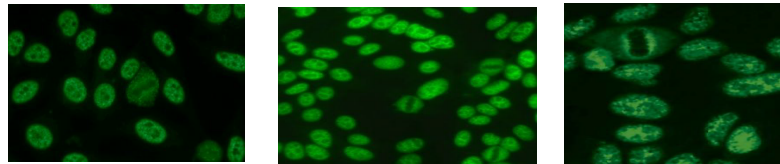
Screening techniques:

- Indirect immunofluorescence on HEp-2 cells
- ELISA

Confirmation techniques:

- Immunodot/ Line assay
- ELISA

IIF pattern on HEp2 cells: Very fine to fine speckled staining



- Mostly associated with **Sjogren's syndrome (SS) (40%)**
- But also **Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (10%)**.
- **Transplacental passage of anti-SSA/Ro and/or anti-SSB exposes the foetus to congenital heart block.**
Pregnant women with connective tissue diseases should be screened for these abs. ⚠️
- Often associated with anti-SSA antibodies (50%) and rarely exclusively positive.

Usefulness in Sjogren's syndrome

- Removed from the classification criteria of SS (ACR/EULAR 2016)
- Associated with an **earlier disease onset, glandular dysfunction and extraglandular manifestations**
- Associated with **hypergammaglobulinemia**, as well as **high rheumatoid factor rate (RF)**

