Autoantibodies: The mystery revealed

Connective Tissue Diseases

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- Firstly reported in **2007 in** a woman presenting with interstitial lung disease (ILD) and myositis.
- The eighth of antibodies associated with anti-synthetase syndrome (ASS)
- Family: Antisynthetase specific antibodies
- Target antigen: phenylalanyl-tRNA synthetase

Main disease: Anti Synthetase Syndrome (ASS)

- Rare < 1% and possible higher prevalence in younger adults
 Not included in the ACR/EULAR 2017 classification criteria of inflammatory myopathies or any of its sub-groups
- Sensitivity / Specificity= Not Characterized
- Predominance female is suggested (around 66% in current cohorts)

Suggested clinical features of anti-ZO-ASS:

- Interstitial Lung Disease is common, and it
- is associated with the other known features of ASS such as muscle damage, arthritis, Raynaud's phenomenon or cutaneous manifestations.
- Possible genetic association with the HLA 8.1 ancestral haplotype
- Possible co-occurrence with anti-ENA especially **anti-RO52** in patients with myositis with a more severe ILD.

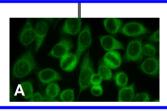
Screening technique: Indirect Immunofluorescence (IIF) on HEp-2 cells Limitations: Lack of sensitivity due to a weakened signal caused by low antigen expression

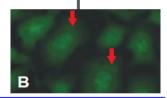
IIF pattern on HEp-2 cells:

Fine speckled cytoplasmic pattern; A: serum positive for **anti-Zo**; **B:** serum positive for **anti-Zo** and **anti-Ro52** in a patient with Sjögren's syndrome

Anti-Zo antibodies

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Confirmation techniques:

- 1- Immunoprecipitation of radiolabeled proteins (FARSα/β)
- Advantages: gold standard method; improved sensitivity and specificity
- Limitations: Complex, time-consuming, requires significant quantities of antigens and handling of radioisotopes □ Not well-suited for routine use
- 2- Line/Dot blot immunoassays (DIA): DOT- myositis
- Advantages: Fast, easy to use □ adapted for routine practice. It provides a semi-quantitative result
- Limitations: Lack of a standardized protocol
- 3- Line immunoassays (LIA): few validation studies on anti-Zo
- 4- Immunodepletion using a reference serum
- 5- Mass spectrometry

