



Serum immunoglobulin A (IgA) and autoimmune comorbidities: a cross-sectional study in 281 patients with systemic lupus erythematosus

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Background:

Autoimmune diseases linked to IgA deficiency are SLE, RA, thyroiditis and celiac disease among others¹. In the present study we aimed to know the autoimmune diseases that co-occur in a sample of SLE patients and if this association is higher in those with IgA deficiency.

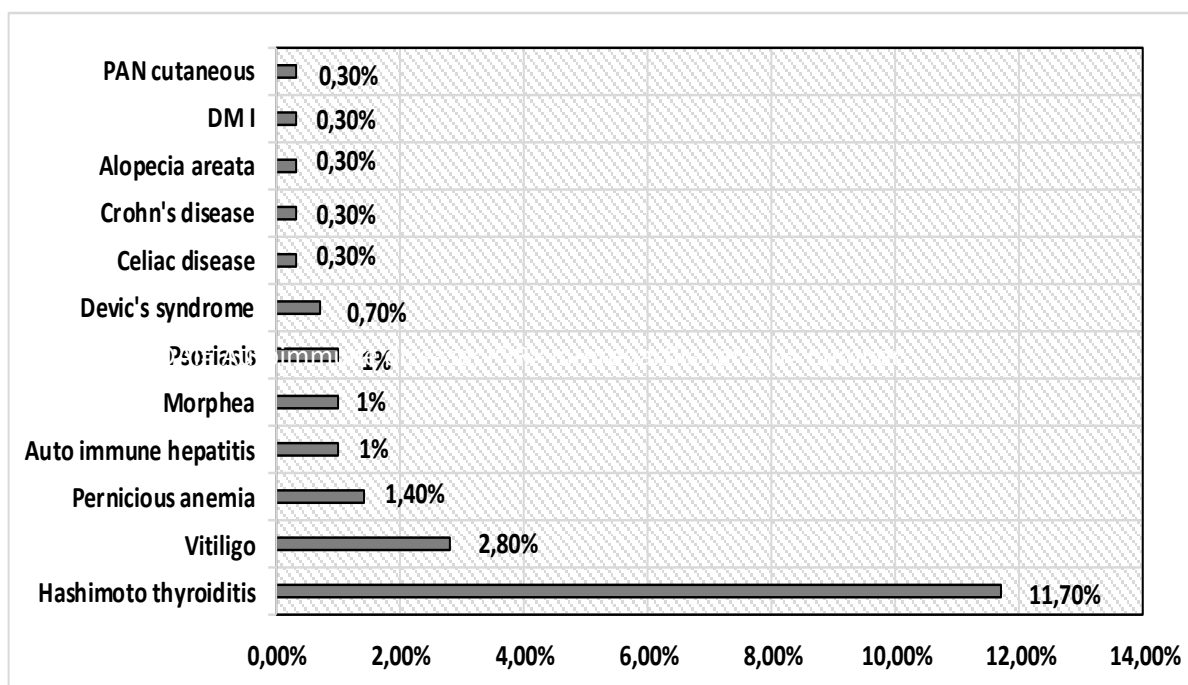
Methods:

Two hundred eighty-one patients with SLE were studied for Ig A levels by nephelometry. Levels equal or under 0,5g/dL were considered as IgA deficiency. Epidemiological and clinical data, including presence of associated autoimmune diseases, were extracted from patient's charts.

Results:

Ig A deficiency was found in 6% of the sample. In 30.2% of SLE patients there was at least one more autoimmune disease; Hashimoto thyroiditis and Sjögren's syndrome were the most common (Figures 1,2). No association of the occurrence of associated autoimmune disease with IgA deficiency was found.

Figure 1- Prevalence of associated organ specific auto immune diseases in 281 Systemic Lupus Erythematosus patients.



*DM= diabetes mellitus

Figure 2 - Prevalence of systemic autoimmune co-morbidities in 281 Systemic Lupus Erythematosus patients.

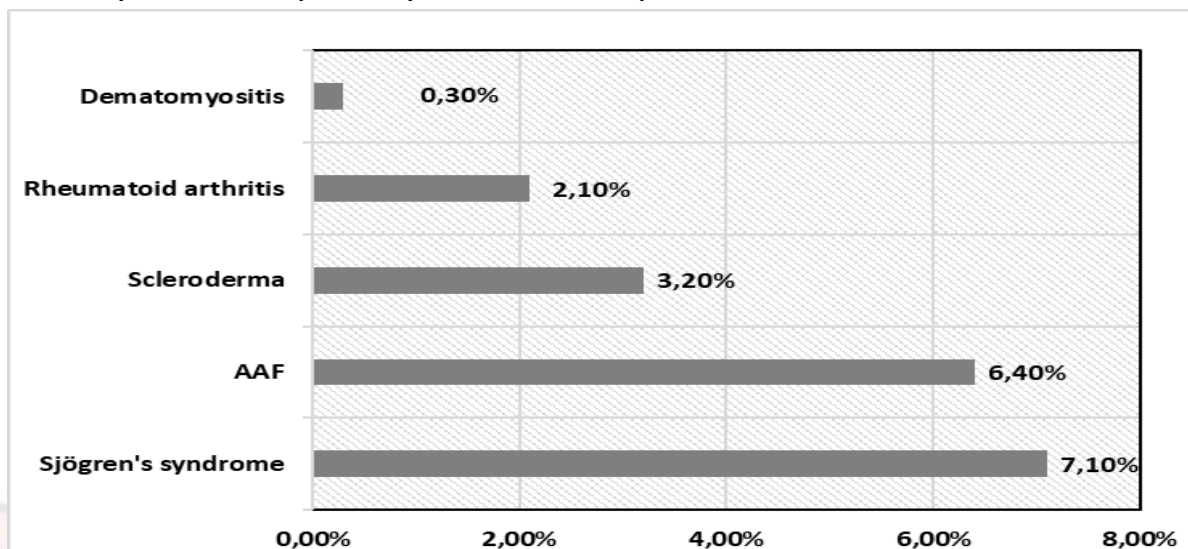


Table 2- Comparison of SLE patients with and without associated autoimmune

	With IgA deficiency N=17	Without IgA deficiency N=264	P
Median age at diagnosis (IQR)	25 (18-41)	29.0 (21.0-39.0)	0.76
Females (n)	17/17 – 100%	245/264 – 92.8%	0.61
Afrodescendants ethnic	6/15 – 40%	94/238 – 39.4%	0.96
Patients with associated DAI	7/17 – 41.1%	78/264 – 29.5%	0.31
Systemic DAI (n)	2/7 – 28.5%	48/78 – 61.5%	0.11
Organ-specific DAI (n)	7/7 – 100%	47/78 – 60.2%	0.12
Systemic + organ specific DAI (n)	2/7 – 28.5%	17/78 = 21.7%	0.65
Hashimoto thyroiditis	2/17 – 11.7%	31/264 – 11.7%	1.0
Sjogren's syndrome	1/17 -5.8%	19/264 – 7.1%	1.0
Scleroderma	0	9/264 – 3.4%	0.61
Antiphospholipid antibody syndrome	1/17- 5.8%	17/264 – 6.4%	1.0
Vitiligo	1/17 – 5.8%	7/264 – 2.6%	0.39

Conclusions:

There is a high prevalence of autoimmune diseases associated with SLE. IgA deficiency does not affect the presence of these associations.

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