Anticyclic Citrullinated Peptide Antibodies in Patients with Rheumatic Diseases other than Rheumatoid Arthritis: Clinical or Pathogenic Significance?

To the Editor:

We read with interest about the study by Payet, et al investigating prevalence and discriminatory value of anticyclic citrullinated peptide (anti-CCP) antibodies in patients with rheumatic diseases other than rheumatoid arthritis (RA)

9,10. Notably, all anti-CCP-positive patients with SS described by Payet included in Payet’s cohort and in the other cited studies may allow identification of patients with SS already fulfilling these more recent RA classification criteria, because of high anti-CCP titer and synovitis persistence.15

If the association of anti-CCP and RA is a well-established concept, there is also evidence that anti-CCP are closely associated with joint involvement independent of rheumatic condition. The relationship between anti-CCP and joint erosions has also been well documented in RA, and several investigations have been performed to clarify pathogenic mechanisms by which tolerance to citrullinated proteins can be broken and joint inflammation and damage can be triggered in RA. In this context, the finding of anti-CCP in non-RA patients should be interpreted with caution from a clinical point of view, but more importantly, could provide an interesting tool to acquire additional information on the pathogenic role exerted by anti-CCP in inducing joint inflammation and/or damage in these patients.

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REFERENCES


