

# ANTI CHROMATIN ANTIBODIES AS A MARKER OF LUPUS ACTIVITY & LUPUS NEPHRITIS

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## Abstract

**Background** Anti-chromatin antibodies have recently been described in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and it has been suggested that their presence is associated with lupus activity. **Objectives** To assess the presence of antichromatin antibodies in patient with SLE and its relation to lupus nephritis. **Method** The presence of antichromatin antibodies in 52 SLE patients has been investigated by an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). To determine the specificity of these antibodies, 12 cases with other systemic auto immune disease (SAD), 13 healthy control subjects were investigated. **Results** Positive levels were detected in 40/52 (77%), 2 cases with other SAD (16.7%) and none of healthy control. Significant correlation was found between the levels of antichromatin antibodies and disease activity score as measured by SLEDAI, a significant correlation was found between the levels of anti-chromatin antibodies and parameters of nephritis. **Conclusion** The measurement of anti-chromatin antibodies appears to be a useful addition to the laboratory tests that can help in the diagnosis and treatment of SLE. These antibodies are both sensitive and specific for SLE, and are a useful marker for increased risk of lupus nephritis.

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