

## **A Review on Comparative study of 14-3-3 $\eta$ protein with conventional serum marker and its role in rheumatoid arthritis.**

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### **Abstract:**

Rheumatoid Arthritis is an auto immune inflammatory disorder, pathological damage is irreversible in established case of disorder. The 14-3-3  $\eta$  is a type of inflammatory intracellular protein, which is raised in the case of RA. The main aim of research is to study the prevalence and level of serum 14-3-3  $\eta$  protein with other conventional Sero makers like ACCP, CRP and RF to identify one of best marker for diagnosis of RA. The Author found an increase level of 14-3-3 ETA protein compared to ACCP (which is specific marker) CRP, RF level in patients with rheumatoid arthritis. A level of 14-3-3 ETA also increases in case of RF negative arthritic patients. Therefore, the level of serum 14-3-3 ETA protein may be employed to diagnose and categorization of Rheumatic Arthritis patients.

**Key Words: Rheumatoid Arthritis, 14-3-3 eta protein, Arthritis markers.**

### **Introduction:**

RA (Rheumatoid arthritis) is a slowly progressive inflammatory disorder of the system. Which affect nearby 1-2 % population of the world, prevalence ration in female to male is near 3:1. [1]. Main pathology of this disease is joints, swelling which further result in pain, and stiffness with progressive loss of the essential function of that organ or joint. If the patients remain untreated, this may lead to irreversible damage in the joint. In severe cases, as joint damage progresses, it can cause abnormal morphological and biochemical changes (deformities) in the joints that impaired normal function and leads to workplace disability.[1-3]

.One of the most important features of the RD (Rheumatoid disorders) is the inflammation. Generally the inflammatory response develops after tissue damage to eliminate pathogen. It also limits tissue injury and induced regeneration [2]. All these inflammatory changes are responsible for the increase in some hematological parameter like ESR, some

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biochemical parameters like C reactive protein (CRP), some complementary protein and fibrinogen as well there are also decreasing in albumin and some protein level. The serum level of these biomarkers and correlation with clinical condition helps to check diseases progression and therapeutic drug monitoring. However, all these markers are non-specific as they increase in infection and some of malignant disorders. ESR and CRP is the most common test referred by the clinician. Nowadays it is universally accepted that the diagnosis and categorization of RA at early stages and appropriate treatment can help as good prognosis for patients [1-4]

### **Conventional markers for RA**

ACR (American college of rheumatology) and ELAR (European League against Rheumatism) suggest criteria for classification, identification and treatment of rheumatoid disorders. They also suggest good biomarker for diseases [5]. Conventional well utilized marker for progression and monitoring rheumatoid arthritis are acute phase reactant like CRP, ESR and antibodies like RF, Anti-CCP or ACPA.

### **Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate.**

ESR is a simple, easy and cost-effective parameter for evaluating inflammation and acute phase reactions. As the significant action of acute phase protein and cytokines in inflammation is well-established, measurement of ESR is choice of method for evaluating different clinical conditions. Alterations in the inflammatory plasma protein level in circulation like fibrinogen and immunoglobulin which are typically associated with systemic diseases are majority factor that affects ESR level. [7]

By general ESR values is influenced by cellular, Non cellular component, as well as a huge variety of immunological and non- immunological parameter. It also includes alterations of the morphology and the number of red blood cells, and changes in the normal patterns and level of various plasma proteins. The ESR may rise in a variety of conditions like anemia, pregnancy, tuberculosis, infection, autoimmune disorder and other inflammatory diseases. The Study shows for diagnosis and treatment monitoring of RA patients with only ESR may not very accurately Hence singly ESR not used as an isolated test, but included as part for group of criteria to

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diagnose and follow up patients suffering from rheumatoid arthritis and other type of immune arthritis.

### **C - reactive protein (C.R.P.)**

C.R.P. which is one of an acute phase reactant protein generally found in serum following infection or tissue injury caused by many inflammatory processes, trauma or burns. Serum CRP level rises rapidly within 4-6 hrs.[9] and may reach peak level, which is more than 1000 times greater than the reference value. [9] Promoters for synthesis of CRP are Interleukin (IL)-6, interleukin IL-1 $\beta$ , and some of tumor necrosis factor like (TNF)- $\alpha$ . The magnitude of serum CRP level reflects the level of tissue injury. This will help in monitoring disease's progress. As CRP level is unaltered by age, sex, and morphological abnormality of RBC and different serum proteins. It is comparatively more reliable and objective and useful factor for disease progression to joint damage and further clinical outcome [10,12]

In addition to eliminate infection, dead or damaged cell, CRP plays a key part in inflammation by activating complement cascade and increasing phagocytosis. Previous study directed us that increase CRP level is not only the result from the inflammation event, but also from pro-inflammatory process and bone destruction (by stimulation osteoclastic activity). Which assist in monitoring of tissue, bone damage, clinical presentation in RA

CRP level may be helpful for differentiation of RA from other arthritis like osteoarthritis. However, in very few types of osteoarthritis CRP levels may rise. CRP level is better correlated with radiological progression and treatment response compared to ESR.[10] High level of CRP shows progressive and erosive effects. The high value of CRP also found in tuberculosis, acute infection and other infectious and inflammatory disorders. Slight increase level of CRP found in diabetes, hypertension, depression, alcoholism, smoking, increase activity and chronic tiredness. However, normal or low CRP level doesn't indicate non-progressive diseases because about 10% cases of clinically active (RA) shows all acute phase proteins within normal range. [23]

### **Rheumatoid factor (RF)**

RA is one of autoimmune disorder is clinically shown the presence of auto antibodies. RF is a first autoantibodies discovered in rheumatoid arthritis (RA). This develops against Fc part of the immunoglobulin (IgG) which is IgM in nature [15]Majority of RA cases shows RF values greater than 50 U/ml. High RF concentration indicates an aggressive joint disorder, rheumatic or arthritic nodules and further involved in near extra articular tissues. The only RF level doesn't diagnose the disease because it may increase in healthy population which also increase with age.

Normally, the temporary production of low binding capacity of IgM F is regularly stimulated by some immunocomplexes and B cell activators. High concentration of RF in synovial fluid of RA stated to increase inflammation and antigen trapping in cavity of joints. [15]

RF (rheumatoid factor) is not just specific for RA, but it may be increased in other rheumatoid disorder like systemic lupus erythematosus, infectious arthritis, Sjogren's syndrome, some case of fibrosis and some infectious diseases.[35]30 -50 % early case of RA shows seronegativity for rheumatoid factor. Although the combination of serum IgM and IgA antibody test against RFs is a one of a strong biomarkers of rheumatoid arthritis. But IgA RFs antibodies are not widely and commercially available for validation of test. [14,15]

### **Anti-Cyclic Citrullinated peptide Antibodies (Anti CCP) and anti-Citrullinated peptide antibodies (ACPA)**

Besides the (RF), another group of autoantibodies has been identified in serum of patients with clinical presentation of RA patients are the anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide anti-bodies (anti-CCP).[6]

Previously discovered antibody test is Anti perinuclear factor (A.P.F.) and anti-keratin antibodies (A.K.A). They have a comparatively high specificity of up to 70% positive case found for Rheumatoid arthritis, but it fails to come in routine clinical practice, although it has high specificity,. [11]It was because of various technical difficulties in performing the tests. Anti-Sa abs is also found in some type of RA patients. Scientifically it is proved that Anti perinuclear abs, anti-keratin abs, and anti Sa abs. target citrullinated proteins. [15]

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Large no of RA patients develops IgG antibodies against citrulline peptides. Previous study determined that the target of these antibodies is one of specific type of protein called filaggrin which may present in synovium of RA patients. When filaggrin is absent in the synovium that time other citrullinated protein like fibronectin, fibrinogen are present in synovium of RA patients. [16]. The Citrullination is a process in which the enzyme peptidyl arginine deiminase (PAD) initiate a posttranslational modification of arginine to citrulline. Naturally, this process occurs in apoptosis, inflammation and keratinization. [1]

The name Anti citrullinated peptide antibody (ACPA) is used after development of non-cyclic citrullinated antibody assays. Like anti- SA antibody assay and anti-mutated citrullinated vimentin assay (anti MCV). Out of them anti MCV has higher sensitivity, but has a lesser sensitivity compare to ACPA for diagnosis of RA. [18]

The ACPAs are the group of autoantibodies, which are found in 70–90% of RA patients. These antibodies rarely present in other disorders and healthy person. Because they have high disease specificity (90–95%). High ACPA level in clinically established patients indicates severe structural damage of joint, radiographic progression diseases and poor therapeutic response. ACPA also strongly associated increased risk with development of RA in healthy individuals before clinical feature develops. [13, 16,17]

### **14-3-3 eta protein**

In 2007, Kilani T. et al first time described the pathophysiological importance of 14,3,3 eta protein in rheumatoid arthritis [42]. The 14, 3, 3 protein is a specific family of intracellular group of protein (Chaperone protein), acidic in nature. On the basis of HPLC it shows seven isomers which are divided into  $\alpha/\beta$ ,  $\epsilon$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $\eta$ ,  $\zeta$ ,  $\sigma$ , and  $\theta$ . [25] This 14, 3, 3 protein play important role in proliferation, cell regulation, signal transductions, metabolism and other biological function by interacting with other proteins. [30] In RA this biomarker activates inflammatory and pro inflammatory cofactor. Out of 7 only 14-3-3 eta protein isoform presents in in the serum and joint fluid three to five-fold higher than normal serum level of patients with arthritis [20,26].

## Comparative studies between RA, CRP, ESR, with Anti citrullinated protein antibodies

Data of previous study (2010-2019) on 14-3-3 ETA protein, CRP, ACCP (ACPA), ESR and RF and their role in rheumatic arthritis and other rheumatoid disorders were collected and analyzed for possible ideal marker on the basis of specificity, sensitivity and methods from an early and established case of RA.

Many research studies were carried out to establish a marker for RA. Dogan et al (2004) were carried out study in non RA and RA patients to compare specificity and sensitivity of marker shows that anti-CCP has high sensitivity (69%) and Specificity (99.9 %) but a combination of RF and ACCP has high specificity (100%) in case of RA. Sensitivity of CRP and ESR is good near 88.2%, but it also present in non RA patients in 70.3% which shows less specificity. [14]

The research work of Kim et al (2010) includes 1753 patients show similar result RF and anti CCP has high specificity (85-87%) compared to ESR and CRP [9]. Malini et al (2017) explains Anti CCP as specific marker (96%). [21]

Study	Parameter	No of Patients	R.F. Positive %	Anti-C.C.P. Positive in %	anti-C.C.P. Negative in %	R.F. Negative in %	High CRP in %	High ESR in %	ESR & CRP higher in %	ACCP and RF Positive in %
Dogan et al (2014)	Total No	199	42	48	-	-	56	62.7	56.3	34.2
	RA patients	135	60	70	-	-	72	83.7	88.2	50.4
	Non-RA patients	64	9	5	-	-	22	70.3	70.3	0
	Sensitivity		59	69	-	-	77	84	73	50
	Specificity		92	99.9	-	-	78	30	78	100
Kim et al (2010)										
	No RA patients	1753	68.72	52.2	12.9	47.8	-	-	-	68.8

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	Specificity		85	87.1	-	-	-	-	-	78.6
	Sensitivity		52.2	57.6	-	-	-	-	-	70.6
Malini V. et al. (2017)	No of RA patients	572	91.9	75	25	8.1	91.9		-	69.9
	Specificity		82	96	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sensitivity		67	79	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 1. Comparative data of R.F, CRP, ESR, with Anti-CCP in RA patients

Kadavath et al in 2014 studies role of 14-3-3  $\eta$  in rheumatoid arthritis patients, which described combination of ACCP, RF and 14-3-3  $\eta$  have high positivity (53.9 %) in RA compared to non-RA patients. [22] Similar research work was done by Maksymowych et al in 2014 which express high specific 92.6% in early as well as established patients with RA. [25] Hirata et al (2015) aid that patients 9 patients from 74 patients who were under treatment became negative for 14-3-3 eta protein [33] Gong et al (2017) estimated 14,3,3,  $\eta$  from control (80), early RA (84) and established RA (175) subjects to study false positivity it was only 5% and positive result was about 100% in case of established RA [34]. This research is also supported by Stanley J Naides (2015) work express that 14-3-3 ETA protein were present in seronegative case [41]. Further research work of Mohamed et al (2018) [29], Lab Corp (2019) and recent work of O. shovan et al (2019) describes similar results. [20,42],

Study	Parameter	14-3-3 $\eta$ +	RF+	ACCP +	ACCP+ & RF+	14,3,3 $\eta$ + & ACCP+	14,3 ,3 $\eta$ +& RF +	ACCP+, RF+, 14-3-3 $\eta$ +
Kadavath et al (2014)	RA patients (91)	24.1	24.1	28.6	46	28.6	24.1	53.9
	Non RA patients (37)	0	32.4	29.7	29.7	27	27	27
Maksymowych et al (2014)	Early RA (99)	64	57	59	72	72	75	78
	Established RA (124)	77	85	79	88	96	94	96
	Sensitivity	63.6	57	59	88	89	88	90
	Specificity	92.6	85	98	84	92	74	78
Hirata et al. (2015)	Non treated RA patients (149)	74	85	65	-	98	95	-
	Treated RA patients (149)	65	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carrier et al (2016)	Early RA (252)	50.6	55.6	47.2	61.5	62.7	63.9	66.7

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	Established RA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gong et al (2017)	Control (80)	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Early RA (84)	91.75	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Established RA (175)	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mohammed et al (2018)	Early RA (57)	82.5	64.9	68.4	68.4	85.9	82.5	87.7
	Established RA (35)	85.7	71.4	85.7	85.7	91.4	85.7	91.4
Lab Corp (2018)	Early RA	64	57	59	72	72	75	78
	Established RA	77	85	79	88	96	94	96
O. Shovman et al (2018)	Early RA (45)	58	67	71	80	80	73	82
	Established RA (51)	43	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 2. Comparative study positivity of 13-3-3  $\eta$  with another marker

### Summary:

- 14-3-3 ETA protein is the first protein significantly raised in serum and synovial fluid of RA patients, so the level of this prognostic marker indicated progression and out of pathological damage in individual of RA. It is positive in the early stages of RA.
- Although ACCP and RF value is high compared to 14-3-3 ETA protein, but with confirming with Non RA patients 14-3-3 ETA protein is shown less positivity than ACCP positivity that means it has high specificity.
- Specificity of CRP, ESR is less as they are elevated in other inflammatory disorders. Combination of RF, ACCP and 14-4-3-3 $\eta$  increase the sensitivity of test.
- By comparing all Study authors can conclude that Specificity and Sensitivity of the serum 14-3-3 ETA protein is higher than the other it indicates that it is an ideal marker for diagnosis, differentiation and prognosis of Rheumatoid arthritis.



## Future Scope:

- More study is required to differentiate role of 14,3,3 eta protein in RA with other inflammatory disorder.
- There is a current need of development of easy point of care test for novel 14,3, eat protein, so it will be easy available for diagnosis.
- Large group of study is required to avail this test in routine practice for accurate diagnosis and treatment of Rheumatoid arthritis patients.

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