

1-1-2019

Importance of 14-3-3eta, anti-CarP, and anti-Sa in the diagnosis of seronegative rheumatoid arthritis

EMRAH SALMAN

SALİH ÇETİNER

BARIŞ BORAL

FİLİZ KİBAR

EREN ERKEN

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: <https://journals.tubitak.gov.tr/medical>

 Part of the [Medical Sciences Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

SALMAN, EMRAH; ÇETİNER, SALİH; BORAL, BARIŞ; KİBAR, FİLİZ; ERKEN, EREN; ERSÖZLÜ, EMİNE DUYGU; BADAĞ, SUADE ÖZLEM; SALMAN, REYHAN BİLİCİ; SERTDEMİR, YAŞAR; DURAN, ALEV ÇETİN; and YAMAN, AKGÜN (2019) "Importance of 14-3-3eta, anti-CarP, and anti-Sa in the diagnosis of seronegative rheumatoid arthritis," *Turkish Journal of Medical Sciences*: Vol. 49: No. 5, Article 34. <https://doi.org/10.3906/sag-1812-137>

Available at: <https://journals.tubitak.gov.tr/medical/vol49/iss5/34>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by TÜBİTAK Academic Journals. It has been accepted for inclusion in Turkish Journal of Medical Sciences by an authorized editor of TÜBİTAK Academic Journals. For more information, please contact academic.publications@tubitak.gov.tr.

Importance of 14-3-3eta, anti-CarP, and anti-Sa in the diagnosis of seronegative rheumatoid arthritis

Authors

EMRAH SALMAN, SALİH ÇETİNER, BARIŞ BORAL, FİLİZ KİBAR, EREN ERKEN, EMİNE DUYGU ERSÖZLÜ, SUADE ÖZLEM BADAĞ, REYHAN BİLİCİ SALMAN, YAŞAR SERTDEMİR, ALEV ÇETİN DURAN, and AKGÜN YAMAN

Importance of 14-3-3eta, anti-CarP, and anti-Sa in the diagnosis of seronegative rheumatoid arthritis

Emrah SALMAN^{1*}, Salih ÇETİNER², Barış BORAL³, Filiz KİBAR⁴, Eren ERKEN⁵, Emine Duygu ERSÖZLÜ⁶, Suade Özlem BADAĞ⁵, Reyhan BİLİCİ SALMAN⁷, Yaşar SERTDEMİR⁸, Alev ÇETİN DURAN⁹, Akgün YAMAN⁴

¹Department of Immunology, Ankara City Hospital, Ankara, Turkey

²Department of Immunology, Faculty of Medicine, Çukurova University, Adana, Turkey

³Department of Immunology, Adana City Hospital, Adana, Turkey

⁴Department of Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, Çukurova University, Adana, Turkey

⁵Department of Rheumatology, Faculty of Medicine, Çukurova University, Adana, Turkey

⁶Department of Rheumatology, Adana City Hospital, Adana, Turkey

⁷Department of Rheumatology, Faculty of Medicine, Gazi University, Ankara, Turkey

⁸Department of Biostatistics, Faculty of Medicine, Çukurova University, Adana, Turkey

⁹Department of Immunology, Aydın State Hospital, Aydın, Turkey

Received: 18.12.2018 • Accepted/Published Online: 17.08.2019 • Final Version: 24.10.2019

Background/aim: Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is an autoimmune disease characterized by synovial inflammation. The study aimed to assess serum 14-3-3eta, anti-CarP, and anti-Sa in seronegative RA (SNRA) patients who were treatment-naïve as well as in healthy subjects. This is the first study in the literature to examine these autoantibodies together in SNRA patients.

Materials and methods: Forty-five treatment-naïve SNRA patients and 45 healthy subjects were recruited. Drugs change the levels of autoantibodies; therefore, patients who took any medication had been excluded from our study. Anti-carbamylated protein, anti-Sa, and 14-3-3eta were measured by using three different ELISA kits.

Results: Median serum concentration of healthy controls in 14-3-3eta was 0.02 (0.02–0.27) ng/mL. Median serum concentration of SNRA patients in 14-3-3eta was 1.00 (0.48–1.28) ng/mL. Data were analyzed with Mann–Whitney U tests; the P-value was <0.001 in 14-3-3eta. Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve analysis showed that 14-3-3eta in SNR compared to healthy controls had a significant ($P < 0.001$) area under the curve (AUC) of 0.90 (95% confidence interval, 0.83–0.96). At a cutoff of ≥ 0.33 ng/mL, the ROC curve yielded a sensitivity of 88.9%, a specificity of 82.2%, a positive predictive value of 83.3%, and a negative predictive value of 88.1%.

Conclusion: We found that 14-3-3eta can be used as a diagnostic marker in SNRA.

Key words: 14-3-3eta, Anti-carP, Anti Sa, seronegative

1. Introduction

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is an autoimmune disease characterized by synovial inflammation which may lead to irreversible joint damage, decreased mobility, and reduced quality of life [1]. Seronegative RA (SNRA) is the diagnosis of RA without specific antibodies in the blood. If test results are negative for rheumatoid factor (RF) and cyclic citrullin peptide (aCCP) antibodies but patients nevertheless have pronounced symptoms of RA, they can be diagnosed as having SNRA [1]. Today, RA is classified according to a set of criteria defined by the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) [2]. These criteria were recently revised by the ACR and the European League

Against Rheumatism (EULAR) committees [3]. According to the updated criteria, the presence of antibodies against two RA disease markers—RF and aCCP—is an important criterion for the diagnosis of RA. Recent metaanalyses indicate that one-third of RA patients are seronegative for these two markers [4,5]. Seronegativity in cases of both early and established RA remains an important limitation of these two disease markers, emphasizing the need for new complementary markers to enhance diagnostic sensitivity [6]. New markers are needed to better classify patients in different risk categories, because current markers account for only 32% of the total variance in the prediction of joint destruction [7].

* Correspondence: emrahsalman85@hotmail.com

The ligand activity of soluble 14-3-3eta preferentially activates cells of the innate immune system. This protein acts via signaling cascades (such as the extracellular signal-regulated kinase and p38 pathways) to upregulate proinflammatory cytokines, including interleukin 1 β (IL-1 β), IL-6, tumor necrosis factor (TNF alpha), and other factors involved in joint degradation such as MMP-9 and the receptor activator of nuclear factor-kB ligand (RANKL) [8]. The carbamylation of lysine residues to form homocitrulline may be a key mechanism triggering inflammatory responses. Carbamylated antigens have been reported to activate T cells and thereby assist in T-cell-mediated antibody production [9]. Recent observations have shown that vimentin causes cell death in human macrophages. This makes citrullinated vimentin and antibodies against this antigen (such as anti-Sa) promising candidates for use in the diagnosis of RA. Further research may provide new information about the potential role of citrullinated synovial antigens and antibodies in the pathophysiology of RA [10]. The study aimed to assess serum 14-3-3eta, anti-CarP, and anti-Sa in SNRA patients who were treatment-naïve and in healthy subjects.

2. Materials and methods

This cross-sectional study was performed between April and November 2017. Forty-five healthy volunteers and 45 SNRA patients were admitted to the internal medicine–rheumatology departments of the Çukurova University School of Medicine and Adana City Hospital. Newly diagnosed and untreated with conventional synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs), glucocorticoids, and biological DMARDs seronegative rheumatoid arthritis patients were included in the study. The exclusion criteria for seronegative rheumatoid arthritis were the presence of chronic infections, seropositive rheumatoid arthritis, connective tissue diseases, psoriatic arthritis, spondyloarthritis, and other systemic diseases. The exclusion criteria for healthy volunteers were the presence of chronic kidney disease, hepatic dysfunction, rheumatological diseases or chronic infections. Healthy volunteers were recruited to set the 14-3-3eta, anti-CarP, and anti-Sa antibody thresholds.

The Declaration of Helsinki protocols were followed and approval for the study was granted by the Çukurova University Hospital Ethics Committee (Ref 2017; 64). All participants gave written informed consent. We used the 1987 ACR criteria or the 2010 ACR/EULAR criteria as diagnostic references. Serum samples were collected and spun at 4000 rpm for 4 min and then aliquoted and stored at -20°C . Rheumatoid factor was measured by a nephelometric method in the immunology laboratory at the Çukurova University Balcalı Hospital. aCCP was measured by CCP-2 and/or CCP-3 enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) (Inova). Tests were carried

out and results interpreted according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Positive samples for either aCCP-2 or aCCP-3 were considered as aCCP-positive. The 14-3-3eta antibodies, anticarbamylated protein antibodies, and anti-Sa antibodies were measured with three different ELISA kits: 1) Cusabio, Wuhan, China; 2) Novateinbio, Woburn, MA, USA; and 3) Euroimmun, Lübeck, Germany. These assays employ the quantitative sandwich enzyme immunoassay technique.

Statistical analysis was performed using the SPSS 22.0 (IBM, Chicago, IL, USA) computer program. In statistical analysis, categorical variables were given as numbers and continuous variables were presented with median (interquartile range = 25th percentile to 75th percentile) for descriptive analyses. The conformity of continuous variables to normal distribution was evaluated using visual (histogram and probability graphs) and analytical methods (Kolmogorov–Smirnov/Shapiro–Wilk tests). Normality analysis revealed that all data sets were not distributed normally. The Mann–Whitney U test was used for comparison of data sets which were not normally distributed for the variables. Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) analysis was used to determine if any of these 3 immune markers may participate in seronegative rheumatoid arthritis. The sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value, and negative predictive value of significant limit values were estimated. $P < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant.

3. Results

Forty-five patients with SNRA and 45 healthy volunteers were analyzed. Basic characteristics of the study population are given in Table 1. Groups were similar in terms of demographic parameters.

Median serum concentration of 14-3-3eta in healthy controls was 0.02 (0.02–0.27) ng/mL and 1.00 (0.48–1.28) ng/mL in SNRA patients. There was a statistically significant difference between the SNRA and control groups in 14-3-3eta; the P value was <0.001 .

Table 1. Demographic data and laboratory findings of the seronegative rheumatoid arthritis (SNRA) cases and healthy controls.

	SNRA cases	Healthy controls	P-value
Number of cases	45	45	
Male/Female	36/9	36/9	
Age (years)	53.0 (46.0–60.5)	52 (43.0–59.0)	0.42

14-3-3 eta protein (ng/mL) 1.00 (0.48–1.28) 0.02 (0.02–0.27)
 <0.001 Anti-CarP (ng/mL) 1.23 (0.88–1.79) 1.47 (0.87–2.22) 0.27
 Anti-Sa (ng/mL) 9.29 (6.12–13.69) 8.86 (6.63–14.7) 0.47

When other serum autoantibodies for SNRA patients (anti-CarP and anti-Sa) were compared with those of the healthy group, there was no statistically significant difference between the groups. Median serum concentration of anti-CarP in healthy controls was 1.47 (0.87–2.22) ng/mL and 1.23 (0.88–1.79) ng/mL in SNRA patients. Median serum concentration of anti-Sa in healthy controls was 8.86 (6.63–14.7) ng/mL and 9.29 (6.12–13.69) ng/mL in SNRA patients.

In this study, whether 14-3-3eta, anti-CarP, and anti-Sa values are predictive of the disease was evaluated by ROC analysis (figure). Area under the curve (AUC), cutoff, positive likelihood ratio, sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value, and negative predictive value are presented in Table 2. ROC curve analysis showed that 14-3-3eta in SNR compared to healthy controls had a significant ($P < 0.001$) AUC of 0.90 (95% CI, 0.83–0.96). At a cutoff of ≥ 0.33 ng/mL, the ROC curve yielded a sensitivity of 88.9%, a specificity of 82.2%, a PPV of 83.3%, and an NPV of 88.1%. The mean serum level of 14-3-3eta was 1.00 (0.48–1.28) ng/mL in SNRA patients.

Accordingly, it was found that only 14-3-3eta measurements of the three parameters had statistically significant diagnostic power. According to ROC analysis, positive likelihood ratio, sensitivity, and specificity were found to be highest for 14-3-3eta; the cutoff was 0.33 ng/mL.

4. Discussion

In the present study, we found that 14-3-3eta can be used as a diagnostic marker in SNRA. New markers are needed for early diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis as seronegativity in both early and settled RA remains a major limitation of both anticitrullinated protein antibodies and rheumatoid factor. Both aCCP and RF tests are included in the ACR/EULAR classification criteria for RA [11]. Even though the aCCP test is more specific than that for RF, studies have shown that the combined use of markers means greater sensitivity is maintained than would otherwise be the case if a single marker was used [12,13]. Despite this increased sensitivity, relatively few patients test positive for RF (28%) and aCCP (44%) in the early stage of the disease. Patients who develop erosive RA may also remain negative for both of the markers [14–16]. Therefore, new markers are needed to assist in the diagnosis of RA.

Extracellular 14-3-3eta activates key signaling cascades and induces factors associated with the pathogenesis of RA and plays a role in stimulating tumor necrosis factor alpha, metalloproteinases, and other inflammatory mediators that are important in the joint erosive process [14]. One of the advantages of 14-3-3eta as an RA marker is that it can improve identification rates of early RA. The median serum concentration of 14-3-3eta was reported to be 6.13 ng/mL in early RA patients with joint damage ($n = 13$) and

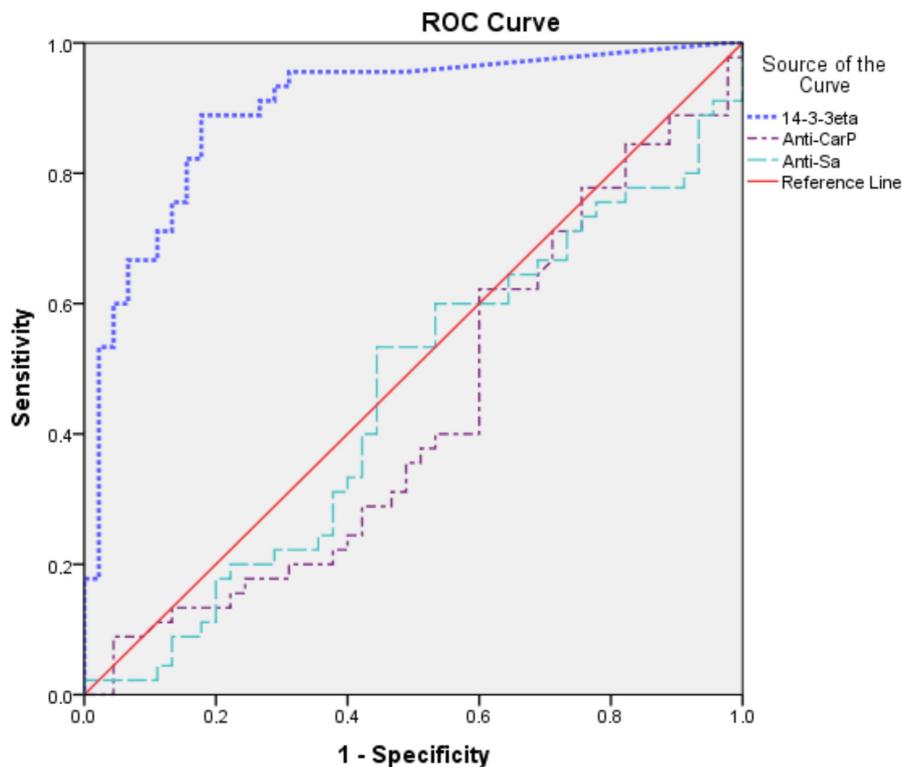


Figure. ROC-curve for 14-3-3eta as a predictor of seronegative rheumatoid arthritis.

Table 2. Statistical parameters of various diagnostic approaches for predicting in patients with seronegative rheumatoid arthritis.

Parameter	AUC (95% CI)	P	Cutoff	Positive likelihood ratio	Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV	NPV
14-3-3eta	0.90 (0.83–0.96)	<0.001	≥0.33	5.0	88.9%	82.2%	83.3%	88.1%
Anti-CarP	0.43 (0.31–0.55)	0.27	≤1.09	1.03	62.2%	40.0%	54.8%	52.5%
Anti-Sa	0.45 (0.33–0.57)	0.47	≥8.22	1.13	60.0%	46.7%	52.9%	53.8%

PPV, positive predictive value; NPV, negative predictive value.

1.30 ng/mL in those without joint damage (n = 20) [15]. In a different study, 6 (21%) of 28 patients with SNRA were 14-3-3eta-positive. The mean serum level of 14-3-3eta in these 6 patients was 3.98 ng/mL, with a range of 0.35–12.65 ng/mL (normal <0.20 ng/mL) [17].

There is a limited study in this area concerning 14-3-3eta in SNRA. Naides and Marotta investigated 14-3-3eta in only 28 SRNA patients and found 21% 14-3-3eta positivity; they claimed that 14-3-3eta together with ACPA and RF can aid in the early detection of RA. In our study, 40 (88%) of the 45 patients who were seronegative for RF and ACPA were 14-3-3eta-positive. Our study included more SNRA patients than others, and we showed the best sensitivity for 14-3-3eta in the literature.

Maksymowych et al. found that adding 14-3-3eta to RF and CCP antibody testing increased diagnostic sensitivity for early RA patients [14]. ROC curve analysis comparing established RA with healthy subjects demonstrated a significant (P < 0.0001) AUC of 0.89 (95% CI, 0.85–0.9). At a cutoff of ≥0.19 ng/mL, the ROC curve yielded a sensitivity of 77.0%, a specificity of 92.6%, an LR positivity of 10.4, a PPV of 0.70, and an NPV of 0.80. When comparing established RA with all controls, the same cutoff yielded a sensitivity of 77.4% and specificity of 86.0%.

Mohamed and colleagues found that adding 14-3-3eta to RF and CCP antibody testing increased diagnostic sensitivity for early RA patients. ROC curve analysis comparing established RA with healthy subjects demonstrated a significant (P < 0.0001) AUC of 0.999 (95% CI, 0.997–1.00). At a cutoff of ≥0.39 ng/mL, the ROC curve yielded a sensitivity of 87.7%, a specificity of 97.6%, a PPV of 0.98, and an NPV of 0.85, meaning that 14-3-3eta is more specific in early RA with high NPV. On the other hand, ACPA has a PPV 95% for the development of RA in patients with undifferentiated arthritis, although its NPV is only about 60–70% [18].

ROC curve analysis showed that 14-3-3eta in SNRA compared to healthy controls had a significant (P < 0.001) AUC of 0.90 (95% CI, 0.83–0.96). At a cutoff of ≥0.33 ng/mL, the ROC curve yielded a sensitivity of 88.9%, a specificity of 82.2%, a PPV of 83.3%, and an NPV of 88.1%.

In the literature, there have been a few studies on the relationship between 14-3-3eta and seropositive early RA.

However, there have been no studies comparing SNRA and healthy controls for 14-3-3eta, anti-CarP, and anti Sa. Patients with undistinguishable seronegative arthropathy require testing serum 14-3-3eta for early detection of RA, which will be of great advantage. 14-3-3eta is a valuable and promising marker in patients with SNRA.

There are a limited number of studies investigating autoantibodies such as anti-CarP and anti-Sa in patients with SNRA. Anti-CarP was observed in sera collected from healthy subjects many years before the development of RA in those subjects. The observation of anti-CarP in the preclinical and early stages of the disease suggests a role (as yet not fully clarified) for these antibodies in the pathogenesis of RA. Anti-CarP IgG antibodies were found to be related with a more severe radiological progression in cases of aCPP-negative RA [19]. In our study, we found that there was no statistically significant difference between the serum concentrations of anti-CarP antibodies in SNRA patients and healthy controls (P = 0.27). In another study, the presence of anti-Sa antibodies in serum was shown to possibly be useful as a complementary assay when anti-CCP antibodies are negative and RA is suspected [20]; however, in our study, we found that SNRA patients and healthy controls were not significantly different with respect to serum concentrations of anti-Sa antibodies (P = 0.47).

Our results suggest that anti-CarP and anti-Sa antibodies cannot be used as a diagnostic marker in SNRA, but these results do not provide enough scientific data to form a conclusion. More comprehensive work is needed. A limitation of our study is the small number of seronegative patients included, which limits the statistical power.

In conclusion, 14-3-3eta, anti-CarP, and anti-Sa have been evaluated individually in the literature in early seropositive RA. However, we evaluated 14-3-3eta, anti-CarP, and anti-Sa in newly diagnosed RF and ACPA negative patients and showed the best sensitivity for 14-3-3eta. SNRA remains poorly diagnosed in the absence of specific antibodies; 14-3-3eta could be clinically useful in patients with SNRA in the future.

Acknowledgments

This study was supported by the Research Fund of the Çukurova University Scientific Investigation Projects Office.

References

1. Somers K, Geusens P, Elewaut D, De Keyser F, Rummens JL et al. Novel autoantibody markers for early and seronegative rheumatoid arthritis. *Journal of Autoimmunity* 2011; 36(1): 33-46. doi: 10.1016/j.jaut.2010.10.003
2. Arnett FC, Edworthy SM, Bloch DA, McShane DJ, Fries JF et al. The American Rheumatism Association 1987 revised criteria for the classification of rheumatoid arthritis. *Arthritis and Rheumatism* 1988; 31(3): 315-324.
3. Aletaha D, Neogi T, Silman AJ, Funovits J, Felson DT et al. 2010 rheumatoid arthritis classification criteria: an American College of Rheumatology/European League Against Rheumatism collaborative initiative. *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases* 2010; 69(9): 1580-1588. doi: 10.1136/ard.2010.138461
4. Avouac J, Gossec L, Dougados M. Diagnostic and predictive value of anti-cyclic citrullinated protein antibodies in rheumatoid arthritis: a systematic literature review. *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases* 2006; 65(7): 845-851. doi: 10.1136/ard.2006.051391
5. Nishimura K, Sugiyama D, Kogata Y, Tsuji G, Nakazawa T et al. Meta-analysis: diagnostic accuracy of anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide antibody and rheumatoid factor for rheumatoid arthritis. *Annals of Internal Medicine* 2007; 146(11): 797-808.
6. Burr ML, Viatte S, Bukhari M, Plant D, Symmons DP et al. Long-term stability of anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide antibody status in patients with early inflammatory polyarthritis. *Arthritis Research and Therapy* 2012; 14(3): R109. doi: 10.1186/ar3834
7. deRooy DP, van der Linden MP, Knevel R, Huizinga TW, van der Helm-van Mil AH. Predicting arthritis outcomes: what can be learned from the Leiden Early Arthritis Clinic? *Rheumatology* 2011; 50(1): 93-100. doi: 10.1093/rheumatology/keq230
8. Maksymowych WP, van der Heijde D, Allaart CF, Landewe R, Boire G et al. 14-3-3eta is a novel mediator associated with the pathogenesis of rheumatoid arthritis and joint damage. *Arthritis Research & Therapy* 2014; 16(2): R99. doi: 10.1186/ar4547.
9. Mydel P, Wang Z, Brisslert M, Hellvard A, Dahlberg LE et al. Carbamylation-dependent activation of T cells: a novel mechanism in the pathogenesis of autoimmune arthritis. *The Journal of Immunology* 2010; 184(12): 6882-6890. doi: 10.4049/jimmunol.1000075
10. Vossenaar ER, Deprés N, Lora M, van der Heijden A, Lapointe E et al. The rheumatoid arthritis specific Sa antigen is citrullinated vimentin. *Arthritis Research & Therapy* 2004; 6(2): 142-150. doi: 10.1186/ar1149
11. Aletaha D, Neogi T, Silman AJ, Funovits J, Felson DT et al. 2010 Rheumatoid arthritis classification criteria: an American College of Rheumatology/European League Against Rheumatism collaborative initiative. *Arthritis and Rheumatism* 2010; 62(9): 2569-2581. doi: 10.1002/art.27584
12. Dubucquoi S, Solau-Gervais E, Lefranc D, Marguerie L, Sibilia J et al. Evaluation of anti-citrullinated filaggrin antibodies as hallmarks for the diagnosis of rheumatic diseases. *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases* 2004; 63(4): 415-419.
13. Greiner A, Plischke H, Kellner H, Gruber R. Association of anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide antibodies, anti-citrullin antibodies, and IgM and IgA rheumatoid factors with serological parameters of disease activity in rheumatoid arthritis. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* 2005; 1050: 295-303. doi: 10.1196/annals.1313.031
14. Maksymowych WP, Naides SJ, Bykerk V, Siminovitch KA, van Schaardenburg D et al. Serum 14-3-3eta is a novel marker that complements current serological measurements to enhance detection of patients with rheumatoid arthritis. *The Journal of Rheumatology* 2014; 41(11): 2104-2113. doi: 10.3899/jrheum.131446
15. Jansen AL, van der Horst-Bruinsma I, van Schaardenburg D, van de Stadt RJ, de Koning MH et al. Rheumatoid factor and antibodies to cyclic citrullinated Peptide differentiate rheumatoid arthritis from undifferentiated polyarthritis in patients with early arthritis. *The Journal of Rheumatology* 2002; 29(10): 2074-2076.
16. Machold KP, Stamm TA, Eberl GJ, Nell VK, Dunky A et al. Very recent onset arthritis: clinical, laboratory, and radiological findings during the first year of disease. *The Journal of Rheumatology* 2002; 29(11): 2278-2287.
17. Naides SJ, Marotta A. 14-3-3η in “seronegative” rheumatoid arthritis. *The Journal of Rheumatology* 2015; 42(10): 1995. doi: 10.3899/jrheum.150330
18. Mohamed M, Abdellatif M, El-Noshokaty M. Serum level of 14-3-3η (Eta) protein as a diagnostic marker for rheumatoid arthritis and potential correlation with disease activity. *MOJ Orthopedics & Rheumatology* 2017; 7(4): 280. doi:10.15406/mojor.2017.07.00280
19. Shi J, Knevel R, Suwannalai P, van der Linden MP, Janssen GM et al. Autoantibodies recognizing carbamylated proteins are present in sera of patients with rheumatoid arthritis and predict joint damage. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 2011; 108(42): 17372-17377. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1114465108
20. Lopez-Longo FJ, Rodriguez-Mahou M, Sanchez-Ramon S, Estecha A, Balsera M et al. Anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide versus anti-Sa antibodies in diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis in an outpatient clinic for connective tissue disease and spondyloarthritis. *The Journal of Rheumatology* 2006; 33(8): 1476-1481.