

**ZNAČAJ ODREĐIVANJA NEKIH  
PARAMETARA HUMORALNOG IMUNITETA  
U SERUMU I SINOVIJALNOJ TEČNOSTI  
ZA AKTIVNOST I TOK REUMATOIDNOG  
ARTRITISA**

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**Kratak sadržaj:** Rezultati naših prethodnih istraživanja su pokazali da ukoliko se određuju sva tri izotipa IgG, IgA i IgM reumatoidnih faktora (RF) umesto samo IgM RF, seropozitivnost prevazilazi 90% i korelira sa aktivnošću bolesti. Ispitivanje ovih parametara, kao mogućih dodatnih pokazatelja za tok i aktivnost reumatoidnog artritisa (RA), je uvršteno i u sinovijalnoj tečnosti. U studiji preseka stanja, određivane su koncentracije pomenutih parametara u 59 uzoraka serumu (S) i sinovijalne tečnosti (ST). Bolesnici su podeljeni prema poznatim ARA kriterijumima u dve grupe: 35 sa umerenom (UA) i 24 sa visokom aktivnosti (VA) bolesti i upređivane sa rezultatima 15 pacijenata sa povredama meniskusa kao kontrolne grupe (KG). U odnosu na prirođan tok bolesti, ispitanici su rangirani u tri grupe: progresivni (P), monociklični (M) i polaciclični (PO). Propustljivost sinovijalne membrane (SM) kao molekulskog sita za serumске proteine, je detektovana određivanjem albuminskog ST/S indeksa, a stepen zapaljenskog procesa koncentracijama CRP i serumskog amiloida A (SAA). Svi parametri su određivani imunonefelometrijskom (DADE Behring) metodom izuzev, IgG i IgA RF koji su mereni monoklonskim ELISA (COGENTDIAGNOSTICS-Autostat II) testovima. Rezultati su pokazali da su koncentracije izotipova RF u S i ST u KG bili ispod »cut off« vrednosti (IU/mL), što je za IgMRF iznosilo < 15, IgGRF < 35 and IgARF < 25. Srednje vrednosti ± SD u serumu za IgMRF, IgGRF and IgARF u VA su bile  $388 \pm 425.109 \pm 119.82 \pm 78$ , dok su u ST one iznosile  $271 \pm 333.88 \pm 113.82 \pm 118$  respektivno. Rezultati RF u S za grupu sa UA su bili  $74 \pm 98.63 \pm 107.35 \pm 33$  a u ST  $41 \pm 61.32 \pm 22.37 \pm 46$ . Mann Whitney U testom su ustanovljene statistički značajne razlike ( $p < 0.01$  ili  $p < 0.05$ ) u koncentracijama RF u S i ST između ispitivanih grupa. Koncentracije RF su bile veće u ST u odnosu na S u 25% bolesnika iz grupe sa UA i 66% u grupi sa VA RA, pod istim uslovima filtrabilnosti SM, što ukazuje na postojanje intraartikularne sinteze RF. Postojanje kombinacija 2 ili 3 izotipa RF u S i ST u grupi sa UA 54% a u grupi sa VA 86% bolesnika, je bio značajniji pokazatelj aktivnosti RA u odnosu na njihove koncentracije. IgMRF u S i ST se pokazao dobrim markerom za

**IMPORTANCE OF SOME HUMORAL  
IMMUNITY PARAMETERS IN SERUM  
AND SYNOVIAL FLUID FOR ASSESSMENT  
OF COURSE OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS  
AND DISEASE ACTIVITY**

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**Summary:** Our recent findings showed that if IgM, IgG and IgA rheumatoid factors (RF) isotypes were assayed instead of only IgMRF, seropositivity exceeded 90% and correlated with disease activity. We introduced synovial fluid (SF) examination as possible additional markers for the course and rheumatoid arthritis (RA) activity. In a cross section study, 59 samples of sera (S) and SF were tested for the level of these parameters. According to the established ARA criteria patients were divided in two groups: 35 with moderate (MA) and 24 with severe activity (SA), and were compared to 15 patients, most with meniscus lesion, as a control group (CG). Taking into account the course of the disease, patients were classified in progressive (P), monocyclic (M) and polycyclic (PO) groups. Molecular permeability of synovial membrane (SM) was carried out by SF/S albumin ratio and inflammation degree by CRP and serum amyloid A concentrations. All parameters were measured by immunonephelometry (DADE Behring), except IgG and IgA RF, which were evaluated by monoclonal ELISA (COGENTDIAGNOSTICS-Autostat II) methods. Results showed that there was no RF isotypes in S or SF in CG, or they were inside »cut off« values (IU/mL) for IgMRF < 15, IgGRF < 35 and IgARF < 25. Mean ± SD values for serum IgMRF, IgGRF and IgARF in SA were  $388 \pm 425.109 \pm 119.82 \pm 78$  in comparison to SF  $271 \pm 333.88 \pm 113.82 \pm 118$ , respectively. Results in sera in MA group were  $74 \pm 98.63 \pm 107.35 \pm 33$  and SF  $41 \pm 61.32 \pm 22.37 \pm 46$ . Mann Whitney U test for the values of RF in S and SF, were statistically significant in all tested groups ( $p < 0.01$  or  $p < 0.05$ ). Values of RF were higher in SF than in sera in 25% of patients in MA group and 66% in SA RA group under the similar filtration rate of SM, which implies the possibility of an intraarticular RF synthesis. Persistence of combination of two or three RF in S and SF, which in MA group were found in 54% of patients and SA in 86% of patients, was a better marker of RA activity than RF concentrations. IgMRF in S and SF was a good prognostic marker of the course of the disease comparing groups P vs PO ( $p < 0.01$ ) and M vs PO ( $p < 0.05$ ). Findings that 10% of

prognozu i tok bolesti poređenjem grupa P vs. PO ( $p<0,01$ ) i M vs. PO ( $p<0,05$ ). Podatak da je 10% IgGRF i 5% IgARF u grupi sa VA RA povišeno samo u ST, ide u prilog hipotezi da se RF prvo sintetišu u sinovijalnim B aktivisanim liofocitima, sekretuju u ST i tek nakon više meseci pojavljuju u krvi. SAA se pokazao kao bolji marker inflamatornog stanja u odnosu na CRP, posebno poređenjem njihovih koncentracija u ST u obe ispitivane grupe.

*Ključne reči:* reumatoidni faktori, sinovijalna tečnost, reumatoidni artritis

IgGRF and 5% of IgARF were elevated only in SF could support the hypothesis that RF are first synthesised inside synovial B activated cells, then secreted in SF and after several months can be detected in blood circulation. SAA was found to be a better marker of RA inflammation than CRP, especially in comparison to their levels in SF established in both tested groups.

*Key words:* rheumatoid factors, synovial fluid, rheumatoid arthritis