

Association Between Interleukin-6(IL-6) and Thrombocytosis in Rheumatoid Arthritis Patients

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Abstract: This study was performed to determine whether the serum concentrations of interleukin (IL)-6 are elevated in patients with RA (rheumatoid arthritis) and to investigate the relationship between IL-6 levels and platelets counts in RA patients. 95 serum samples were obtained, 70 of them from patients with RA who had visited the department of Rheumatology at Al-Sadder medical city in Najaf governorate (Iraq) and 25 age and sex-matched healthy controls. The authors assessed the clinical parameters of the disease, including ESR (erythrocyte sedimentation rate), CRP (C-reactive protein), and RF (rheumatoid factor). platelets counts were measured using automated hematology analyzer Mythic™. Serum concentrations of interleukin-6(IL-6) were measured using an ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay). The results of serum concentration of interleukin-6 (IL-6) were significantly elevated ($P<0.0001$) in patients with RA compared to those of healthy controls. On the other hand, platelets counts were also showed significantly increased ($P<0.001$) in patients with RA compared to those of healthy controls.. These findings suggested that interleukin-6(IL-6) directly stimulates the thromocytopoiesis and the net detectable effects in peripheral blood is thrombocytosis.

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