

## SUMMARY & CONCLUSION

Lupus nephritis is a serious and frequent complication of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) primarily prevalent in women of child bearing age. The study of autoantibodies particularly anti dsDNA antibodies, their production and their role in the immunopathology of SLE and lupus nephritis is complex.

The levels of anti dsDNA antibodies may help in predicting renal damage. The extent of renal damage determined histologically according to WHO classification might help in predicting the outcome of the disease. Higher chronicity indicates poor outcome.

Though the number of samples were modest to support any definite conclusion, higher dsDNA antibody levels were found in patients with lupus nephritis especially WHO Class IV diffuse proliferative lupus nephritis which was the most prevalent class in this study. It was also concluded that it can be considered as a good marker for this disease. It might also be of prognostic significance and help in monitoring the disease.

Insight into these issues is not only of theoretical interest but may also lead to new approaches to diagnostic testing and more preventative or specific therapies of patients.

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