

Anticardiolipin antibodies in systemic lupus erythematosus: prevalence and clinical associations

Anticuerpos anticardiolípinas en el lupus eritematoso sistémico: prevalencia y asociaciones clínicas.

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Anti-cardiolipin antibodies have been recently described in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus and other autoimmune disorders. Venous and arterial thrombosis, thrombocytopenia and recurrent abortion have been associated to the presence of these antibodies. Among 161 patients with systemic lupus we found 66% with anticardiolipin antibodies, mostly IgG type. Thrombosis and thrombocytopenia were more frequent in these patients ($p < 0.05$), especially among those with high titers. No association was found with central nervous system involvement, recurrent abortion, antinuclear or anti-DNA antibodies nor positivity for VDRL. These results support the frequent presence of anti-cardiolipin antibodies in patients with systemic lupus and their association to thrombosis and thrombocytopenia.