Letters to the Editor

Tear fluid measurement of anti-SS-A and anti-SS-B antibody in anti-SS-A and anti-SS-B seronegative Sjögren's syndrome patients

Sirs,

In the US/European Consensus Group (EUCG) classification criteria for Sjögren’s syndrome (SS) objective items, such as focal sialadenitis and serum presence of anti-SS-A and anti-SS-B antibodies (anti-SS-A, anti-SS-B), are emphasized (1). In the sera of approximately 20% of SS patients no anti-SS-A or anti-SS-B can be detected at the time of diagnosis. However, in these ‘seronegative’ patients anti-SS-A or anti-SS-B may nevertheless be present within the affected exocrine glands or their excreta e.g. saliva or tear fluid (2-6). We hypothesised that if anti-SS-A or anti-SS-B synthesis also occurs within lacrimal glands tear fluid presence of these antibodies may occur, even in the absence of serum presence. To our knowledge, anti-SS-A or anti-SS-B presence in tear fluid of SS patients has indeed been reported once (7). The aim of this study was to confirm whether anti-SS-A and anti-SS-B could be detected in tear fluid samples of our seronegative SS patient population.

All patients gave their informed consent before blood or tear fluid withdrawal was carried out. Sera were analysed for anti-SS-A and anti-SS-B presence by counterimmunoelectrophoresis as performed by Bunn and Kveder, using bovine spleen fusion and Transplantation Immunology), 8. BUNN C, KVEDER T: Department of Rheumatology and Department of Blood Transfusion and Transplantation Immunology, Radboud University Medical Center, Nijmegen, the Netherlands.

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Competing interests: none declared.

References

Table I. Tear fluid presence of anti-SS-A and anti-SS-B in patients with Sjögren’s syndrome (SS) and Focal Sialadenitis (FS) (Table shows number of positive serum and tear fluid samples).

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