

Supplementary Table I. Comparison of all positive ddPCR results to qPCR results.
Cq value is inversely proportional to the amount of target DNA in the sample.

No	ddPCR Copies/ml of serum	qPCR Cq value	No	ddPCR Copies/ml of serum	qPCR Cq value
1	2812.5	30.41	16	168.75	0
2	1375	27.54	17	168.75	0
3	1062.5	30.68	18	162.5	34.35
4	1000	0	19	162.5	34.09
5	812.5	31.24	20	100	0
6	750	33.49	21	87.5	0
7	750	31.25	22	68.75	33.73
8	487.5	0	23	68.75	0
9	431.25	0	24	62.5	0
10	375	31.68	25	56.25	35.41
11	287.5	32.24	26	56.25	0
12	275	35.04	27	50	36.66
13	237.5	0	28	43.75	0
14	225	35.82	29	43.75	0
15	187.5	34.22	30	0	0

Supplementary Table II. Demographical and clinical characteristics of EBV positive and negative patients at the study onset and follow-up.

	Baseline		Follow-up	
	EBV pos	EBV neg	EBV pos	EBV neg
Early RA				
n	7	39	11	20
Male, n (%)	0 (0)	7 (18)	0 (0)	5 (25)
Female, n (%)	7 (100)	32 (82)	11 (100)	15 (75)
Age, years, Md (IQR, 25-75%)	58 (55-61)	50 (34-62)	56 (45-63)	55 (49-67.5)
DAS28, Md (IQR, 25-75%)	5.4 (3.51-6.36)	4 (3.09-4.74)*	1.8 (1.65-2.93)	2.3 (1.58-2.92)
RF (+), n (%)	4 (57)	32 (82)	7 (54)	17 (85)
NSAID (+), n (%)	1 (14)	8 (21)	0 (0)	6 (30)
sDMARD (+), n (%)	0 (0)	0 (0)	11 (100)	20 (100)
bDMARD (+), n (%)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Corticosteroids (+), n (%)	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (27)	6 (30)
Chronic RA				
n	3	19	8	8
Male, n (%)	0 (0)	4 (21)	0 (0)	2 (25)
Female, n (%)	3 (100)	15 (79)	8 (100)	6 (75)
Age, years, Md (IQR, 25-75%)	54 (-)	56 (46-60)	59.5 (55-61.75)	48.5 (33.25-57.75)*
DAS28, Md (IQR, 25-75%)	5.9 (-)	4.1 (2.86-4.61)	4.2 (2.96-5.63)	2.2 (1.13-3.19)*
RF (+), n (%)	3 (100)	12 (63)	5 (63)	7 (88)
NSAID (+), n (%)	1 (33)	4 (21)	3 (38)	2 (25)
sDMARD (+), n (%)	3 (100)	18 (95)	8 (100)	8 (100)
bDMARD (+), n (%)	0 (0)	0 (0)	8 (100)	7 (88)
Corticosteroids (+), n (%)	2 (67)	10 (53)	5 (63)	4 (50)

*p-value <0.05 vs. EBV positive; **p-value <0.01 vs. EBV positive.