Joint involvement and anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide antibodies in Behçet’s disease

1Department of Dermatology and Cutaneous Biology Research Institute, Yonsei University College of Medicine, 2Division of Rheumatology, Department of Internal Medicine, Institute for Immunology and Immunologic Diseases, BK21 Project for Medical Science, Yonsei University College of Medicine

Sung Bin Cho1, Ju Hee Lee1, Keun-Jae Ahn1, Byung Gi Bae1, Taegyun Kim1, Yong-Beom Park2, Soo-Kon Lee2, Kwang Hoon Lee1, Dongsik Bang1

Anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide (anti-CCP) antibodies the actions of which are directed against endogenous citrullinated peptides occur in several autoimmune or inflammatory diseases. We aimed to determine the prevalence of anti-CCP antibodies in a large group of Korean patients with Behçet’s disease (BD), with and without joint involvement, and to compare these findings
to the prevalences of anti-CCP antibodies in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). We tested 189 patients with BD, 105 with RA and 36 with SLE for anti-CCP antibodies and IgM rheumatoid factor (RF) in serum. We reviewed the medical records of patients with BD to investigate their personal and clinical characteristics and laboratory test results. Anti-CCP antibodies were detected in seven of the 189 BD patients (3.7%), at a mean titer of 30.6 ± 44.4 U/ml, in 86 of the 105 RA patients (81.9%) with a mean titer of 198.8 ± 205.7 U/ml, and in nine of the 36 SLE patients (25%) with a mean titer of 180.4 ± 113.9 U/ml. Five of the seven anti-CCP-positive BD patients (71.4%) had polyarticular joint involvement, and two patients (28.6%) had oligoarticular involvement. We determined the prevalence of anti-CCP antibodies in a large group of Korean BD patients with and without joint involvement and compared these findings with the prevalences of anti-CCP antibodies in RA and SLE patients.