



Project Summary

Validation of the myositis specific antibody profiles in an Indian Cohort of patients with inflammatory myositis

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Inflammatory myositis is a heterogeneous group of diseases, with varied organ involvement as well as clinical phenotypes. The profiles as well as phenotypes associated have been seen to remarkably vary across different ethnic groups. Myositis antibodies are often predictive of clinical phenotypes. Certain antibody types are also predictive of responsiveness to therapy, and clinical outcomes in the long term. These antibodies can be assessed by Line immunoblot assay which is widely available. However, this test is marred by enormous costs, essentially ruling out regular use for clinical practice in a country as ours. In addition, the technique is such that antibodies to linear epitopes are assessable, which those to complex structural epitopes are not, incurring significant loss of sensitivity.

Immunoprecipitation assay is the gold standard for myositis antibody testing. Apart from being sensitive and specific, it has minimal running costs. It also brings in the potential for describing antibodies to novel antigens, which is often seen in different ethnic groups. However, the test is available at very few centres worldwide. With this collaboration, we intend to set up this assay in our laboratory, in an effort to bring in this technique for clinical use. Apart from this, studying the differences between British and Indian cohorts will bring out the ethnic influence and help better care of patients of Indian origin in Britain.