COMPARISON FOR DIAGNOSTIC UTILITY OF ANTI CYCLIC CITRULLINATED ANTIBODY, ANTI KERATIN ANTIBODIES AND RHEUMATOID FACTOR IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS IN A TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL

OBJECTIVE: To determine the sensitivity and specificity of IgM RF Latex agglutination, Anti CCP antibody ELISA and Anti Keratin antibody by Immunofluorescence for early diagnosis of Rheumatoid arthritis and to compare the utility of Anti CCP antibody ELISA, with IgM RF Latex agglutination and Anti Keratin antibody Immunofluorescence for the early diagnosis of Rheumatoid arthritis.

METHODS: Blood samples were taken from 50 clinically positive rheumatoid patients and 50 undifferentiated arthralgia patients were tested for IgM RF by Latex agglutination, Anti CCP antibodies by ELISA and Anti Keratin antibodies by Immunofluorescence.

RESULT: Analysis of all the three tests, shows that RF by all means is the most sensitive test for the purpose of screening in a large population, but autoantibodies directed to citrullinated antigen–anti-CCP superior to RF for the detection of RA.

CONCLUSION - Anti CCP antibody has the highest specificity in diagnosing the disease and being an early marker of erosive complications, it is potentially considered a good prognostic marker.

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KEYWORDS- Rheumatoid arthritis, Anti cyclic citrullinated antibody, ELISA, Anti keratin antibody, Immunofluorescence, Rheumatoid factor, Latex agglutination.