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## Nickel sensitization: is it a predisposition for induction of auto-immunity?

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**Background:** Nickel is the most common contact allergen all over the world. The role of nickel in induction of autoimmunity remains controversial.

**Objectives:** This study was performed to assess the evidence of autoimmunity among patients with contact sensitivity against nickel.

**Methods:** This was a retrospective analysis of 197 patients with suspected allergic contact dermatitis (ACD) patch tested during March 2012 until December 2015 at King Khalid University Hospital, Riyadh. Out of the total 79 (40.1%) patients reacted only against nickel were included in the study. Among this group of patients 36 (45.5%) patient records had data for autoantibody detection. Patch test was performed using Thin Layer Rapid Use Epicutaneous (T.R.U.E) patch test panels containing 24 allergens.

**Results:** The group of 36 nickel sensitized patients investigated for detection of auto-antibodies included 33 (91.66%) females and 3 (8.33%) males with the mean age of 39.86+ (13.67 sd) years. The most frequently detected autoantibody was antinuclear antibody (ANA) in 12/28 (42.8%) patients investigated. The second most frequently detected autoantibody was anti-smith antibody 3/3 (100%) patients. Anti-thyroid antibodies were present in 1/5 patients followed by anti-gliadin antibody in 1/3, anticardiolipin antibody in 1/1. Anti-double stranded antibodies were undetectable in 11/36 patients tested.

**Conclusion:** The presence of remarkably higher percentage of ANA among patients with nickel induced ACD emphasizes the need for monitoring the induction of auto-immunity in this disorder.

### Biography

Asma Khalid AlSwailem graduated from high school in 2010 with a cumulative GPA during 3 years of 100%, which made her first in her school, and then she was lucky to be selected among the only 120 out of 1000 Saudi females applicants to college of medicine in King Saud University.

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