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## Epidemiological, biological and clinical characterization patients with a nuclear homogeneous pattern on slide of Hep-2 cells by IIF

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**Introduction:** The antinuclear antibodies are auto-antibodies directed against nuclear cells proteins. They are mainly sought during connectivity's. Screening is carried out mainly by indirect immunofluorescence (IIF) which gives many nuclear patterns, including the homogeneous, which is defined by a uniform diffuse fluorescence of the entire nucleus of interphase cells. The fluorescence associates with the condensed chromatin in mitotic cells. This pattern is primarily seen with antibodies directed against DNA native, histones and nucleosomes observed most often in the case of systemic lupus erythematosus.

**Objective:** The objective of our study was to describe epidemiological, biological and clinical characteristics of patients with a nuclear homogeneous pattern on slide of Hep-2 cells.

**Patients & Methods:** This study was carried out in the Immunology Department of Mustapha Bacha University Hospital, this was a retrospective study that took place from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 on 72 patients, who were referred to us essentially by Internal Medicine Department of Mustapha Bacha University Hospital, in the framework of the diagnosis of a connectivity or during a control, where the research for antinuclear antibodies (ANA) by IIF on Hep-2 cell revealed a nuclear homogeneous pattern with titers higher or equal to 1/80. A research of anti-DNA native, anti-nucleosome and anti-histone antibodies has been carried out for all these patients by an ELISA. For 25% of patients who were anti-DNA native positive, a research of these same antibodies on the slide of *Crithidia luciliae* by IIF has also been carried out.

**Results:** In our cohort study, we note a clear predominance of woman with a sex-ration (F/M) of 5/1, and mean age of 39 years (17 months-73 years). The most frequent clinical signs were articular (62%) and cutaneous (26%) disorders. Seven patients among all patients are confirmed lupus patients. Among 72 patients with nuclear homogeneous pattern; 25% (18 patients) were anti-DNAn positive by ELISA, of which only 12 cases were anti-DNAn positive by IIF on the slide of *Crithidia luciliae*. Anti-nucleosome and anti-histone anti-bodies were detected by ELISA in 9.7% and 11.11% of patients respectively. In the case of 7 lupus patients; the titer of ANA is >1/1000, the detection of anti-DNAn showed 7 cases positives by ELISA and 6 cases only by IIF.

**Conclusion:** These data show that the nuclear homogeneous pattern on slide of Hep-2 cells is most often associated with anti-DNAn antibodies, which their detection is more specific on the slide of *Crithidia luciliae* by IIF but the technique the more sensitive remains the ELISA.

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