

In Immunology

Body & Diseases Markers

Acute Phase Proteins:

The following proteins ↑:

- CRP
- ferritin
- fibrinogen
- α -1 antitrypsin
- caeruloplasmin
- serum amyloid A
- serum amyloid P component
- haptoglobin
- complement

During the acute phase response the liver ↓ the production of other proteins (sometimes referred to as negative acute phase proteins).

The following proteins ↓:

- albumin
- transthyretin (formerly known as prealbumin)
- transferrin
- retinol binding protein
- cortisol binding protein

Rheumatoid factor is an IgM antibody against IgG

Rheumatoid Factor (RF) is a circulating antibody (usually IgM) which reacts with antigenic sites on the Fc portion of the patients own IgG

RF can be detected by:

- Rose-Waaler test: sheep red cell agglutination
- Latex agglutination test (less specific)

RF is positive in 70-80% of patients with rheumatoid arthritis; **high titre levels are associated with severe progressive disease (prognosis but NOT a marker of disease activity)**

Other conditions associated with a positive RF include:

- Sjogren's syndrome (around 100%)
- Felty's syndrome (around 100%)
- Infective endocarditis (= 50%)
- SLE (= 20-30%)
- Systemic sclerosis (= 30%)
- General population (= 5%)
- Rarely: TB, HBV, EBV, leprosy

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