

Special Issue

Autoimmune Rheumatic Disease: Advances in Diagnosis and Treatment

Message from the Guest Editors

Autoimmune rheumatic diseases (ARDs) represent a group of distinct disorders that primarily affect the joints, bones, muscle, and connective tissue with similar clinical, laboratory, and immunological manifestations. They are characterized by abnormal immune response to normal cells and tissues, locally or systemically, with overall prevalence in the general population of 3–5%. Symptoms can often be non-specific and overlapping in the early phase of the disease, and therefore early diagnosis is crucial for the timely start of the therapy and more favorable clinical outcomes. Progress has been made in therapy with the introduction of new biological molecules like interleukin 17 (IL-17) and 23 (IL-23) inhibitors, and with small target molecules like Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitors. Imaging also has a fundamental role in the diagnosis, monitoring and prognosis of ARDs; this is especially true of ultrasound, which is now incorporated in many clinical classifications, as well as MRI, which also has a promising role in interventional imaging. This Special Issue will cover all aspects of advances in imaging techniques and treatment options for ARDs.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 August 2023)



Diagnostics

an Open Access Journal
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Impact Factor 3.3
CiteScore 5.9
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/126824

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