

Special Issue

Role of Calprotectin in Human Health and Disease

Message from the Guest Editors

Determination of calprotectin is a valuable clinical biomarker of inflammation. In inflammatory gastrointestinal diseases, colonoscopy and histopathologic evaluation of bowel biopsy specimens are usually regarded as the gold standards for diagnosis and management of such diseases. However, colonoscopy and colon biopsy are not only costly, but occasionally associated with complications. Since fecal calprotectin may serve as a potential surrogate marker for colonoscopy, several clinical studies have focused on this issue. Furthermore, calprotectin may serve as a biomarker of disease activity in rheumatoid arthritis. Plasma calprotectin seems to be a promising biomarker in respiratory infections, allowing more precise diagnosis and selective use of antibiotics compared to other biomarkers. In critically ill patients with bacterial infections, plasma calprotectin seems to be a useful biomarker. Based on these findings, a health economic analysis of the predictive use of plasma calprotectin indicates that this biomarker has cost-saving and life-saving impacts. Calprotectin may rapidly be analyzed turbidimetrically.

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