Pathology of Autoimmune and Autoaggressive Diseases

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Pathology of Autoimmune Diseases

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1. Introduction

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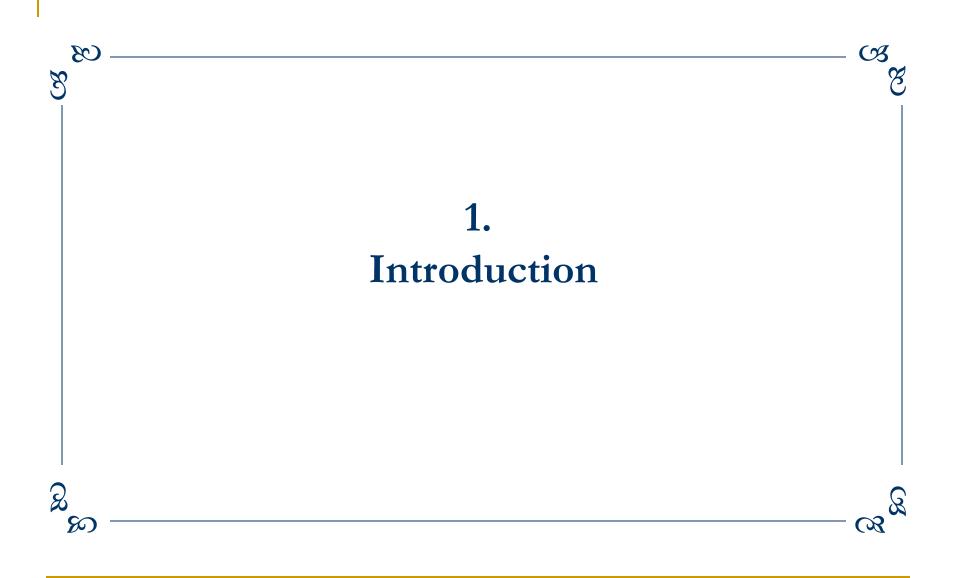
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2. Monosystemic Diseases

3. Oligo-, polysystemic Diseases



Definition

- *Autoimmune diseases*: Diseases with pathogenesis dominated by humoral and cellular immune reactions that are typically directed against body structures and/or substances
- Paul Ehrlich: "horror autotoxicus"
- Paul Ehrlich (1854-1915)
 - german physician and scientist in hematology, immunology and chemotherapy
 - development of Salvarsan (Arsphenamine), first drug against syphilis
 - antiserum against diphthery
 - Nobel laureate 1908

Pathogenesis – Miscellaneous

- Normally: Immune tolerance against own structures (autoimmune tolerance)
- Breakage of autoimmune tolerance >> own tissue appears for the organism as pathogenic >> development of autoimmune / autoaggressive diseases
- Common clinical presentation is that of a chronic-recurring course with autoaggressive phenomena
- Pathoanatomically typical is an inflammatory tissue damage
 - chronic-fibrosing inflammatory infiltrates
 - acute exacerbations with the typical fibrinoid necrosis
- Pathogenetic mechanisms
 - type III (immune complex type) immune reactions: organ dependent appearance, cellular damage by immune complexes
 type IV (cytotoxic, cellular type) immune reactions

Pathogenesis – Miscellaneous

Types of immune reactions

- *complement binding* antibodies *against cells* (e.g. blood cells) and tissue components (e.g. basal membrane). (a) Circulating antigenantibody complexes typically play a roll in vasculitis (deposition into vessel wall layers >> complement aktivation >> cell and tissue damage >> inflammatory reaction). (b) Non-circulating (cell-bound) antigen-antibody complexes (cell surface antigens + antibody >> complement activation >> cytolysis)

- *non complement binding* antibodies *against cell receptors*. Antibody action on receptors can lead to cellular dysfunction, i.e. to either (a) stimulation or (b) blockage.

- *T-effector cells* step in interaction with *cell surface antigens* >> excretion of lymphokines >> inflammation

Pathogenesis – Miscellaneous

Types of immune reactions

Type I. immune reaction
 An immediate IgE-mediated immune reaction dependent on
 liberation of histamine.

- Type II. immune reaction
 A membrane-bound cytotoxic immune reaction.
- Type III. immune reaction

An immune reaction activated by circulating immune complexes, tissue damage is effectuated through an accompanying inflammatory reaction >> e.g. inflammation

– Type IV. immune reaction

A cell-mediated cytotoxicity >> e.g. tbc

Pathogenesis – Hypotheses of immune tolerance

- 1. Clone elimination hypothesis

- autoaggressive antigenes must be quaranteened in the thymus as early as during embryogenesis, i.e. clones coming in early contact with body-own antigenes and therefore capable of recognising them - low-titres of autoaggressive antibodies in otherwise healthy individuals are explained by somatic cell mutations

- 2. Hypothesis of suppression of autoreactive lymphocytes

- this theory "allows" for the existence of lymphocyte stem cells capable of recognising body-own structures, BUT these would be suppressed by T-suppressor cells through blocking autoreactive lymphocyte receptors

- to the contrary a T-helper stimulation may favour autoreactive antibody production by B-cells

Pathogenesis – Mechanisms of Autoagression 1. Immune system derangement

- activity defects of T-suppressor cells >> liberation of proliferation of B-cell clones with autoreactive receptors

- production of anti-antibodies (antiidiotypes)
- typical in malignant lymphomas and immune defects
- 2. Production of cross-reacting antibodies or T-cells

- overlapping specificity between pathogenes and a few body-own antigenes of HLA-type (molecular mimicry / antigenic mimicry)

- e.g. γ - δ -T-lymphocytes with specificity against both body-own and pathogene dependent stress proteins

- antigene overlaps or similarities: cytokeratin (*structural protein of own epithelial cells*) – Morbilli virus; vimentine (*structural protein of own mesenchymal cells*) – Herpes simplex virus; cardiac extracellular matrix – ß-hemolyticus-Streptococcus-A; basal membrane – gliadin (*a component in cereals*)

Pathogenesis – Mechanisms of Autoagression

3. Liberation of hidden autoantigenes

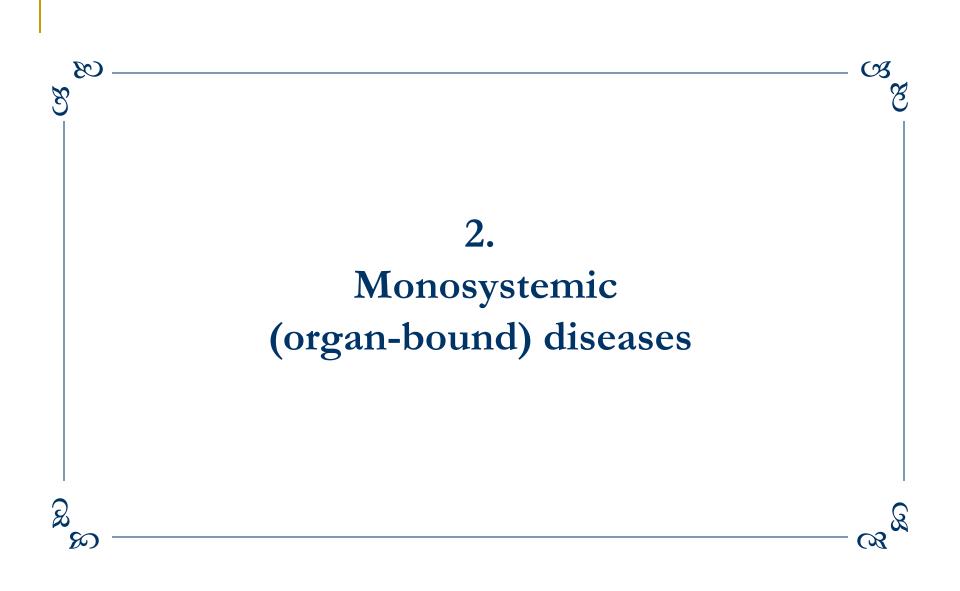
mitochondrial components (AMA – *antimitochondrial antibodies*).
 An AMA-positivity is present in various autoimmune diseases, e.g.
 PBC (primary biliary cirrhosis)

- Myosin (ASMA – alpha smooth muscle actin) in tissue damage

- Retina-S-Antigen in penetrating eye injury with consecutive autoaggressive inflammation of the contralateral uninjured eye (so-called *sympathic opthalmitis*)

- 4. Maldirection of genes (mutations)

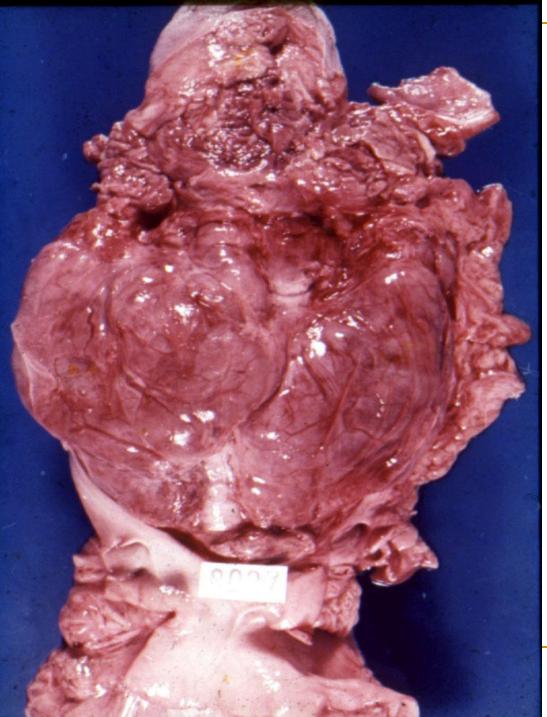
- mutation of body-own HLA-antigenes
- genetically determined autoimmune diseases
- increased association of certain HLA-constellations with some autoimmune diseases



Monosystemic (organ dependent) diseases

- 1. Hashimoto-Thyreoiditis
- 2. Autoimmune hemolytic anemia
- 3. Autoimmune thrombocytopenia
- 4. Autoimmune encephalomyelitis
- 5. Autoimmune orchitis

- 6. Primary biliary cirrhosis
- 7. Autoimmune hepatitis
- 8. Autoimmune gastritis
- 9. Gluten-enteropathie
- 10. Ulcerative Colitis
- 11. Goodpasture's Syndrom
- 12. Insulin-dependent (type I.) Diabetes mellitus (IDDM)
- 13. Myasthenia gravis
- 14. Graves Disease / Morbus Basedow
- 15. Multiple sclerosis



Struma Basedowiana – Grave's disease

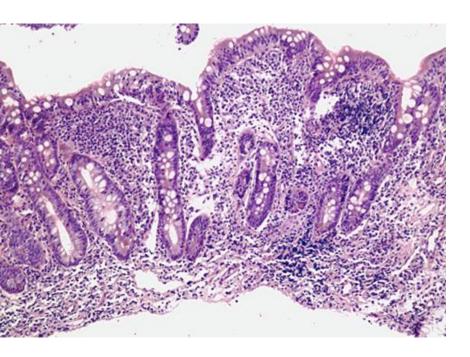
Anti-TSHR-antibodies
Hyperthyreosis, Goiter
Nodular and diffuse struma
Type II. hypersensitivity

Hashimoto-Thyreoiditis

Autoimmune Gastritis

Antigene: B12-intrinsic-factor

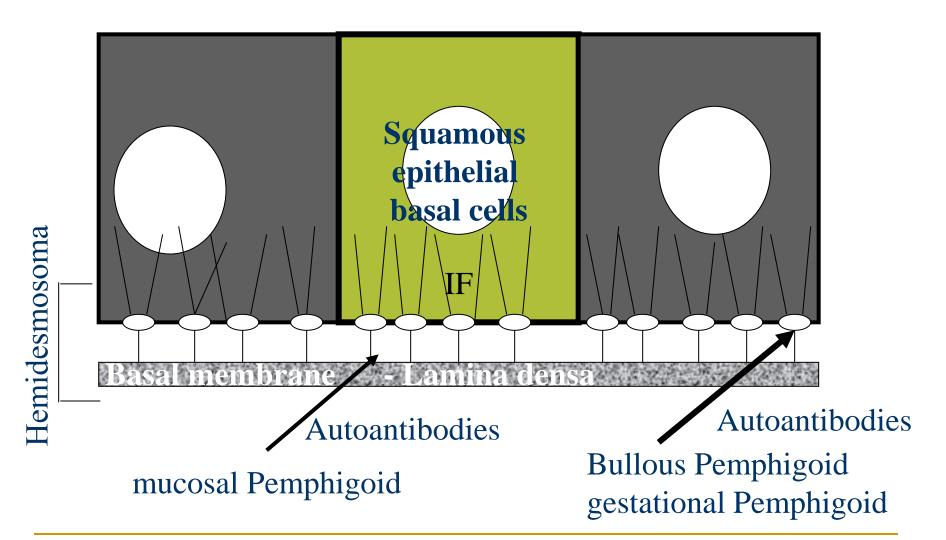
Glutene-sensitive enteropathy

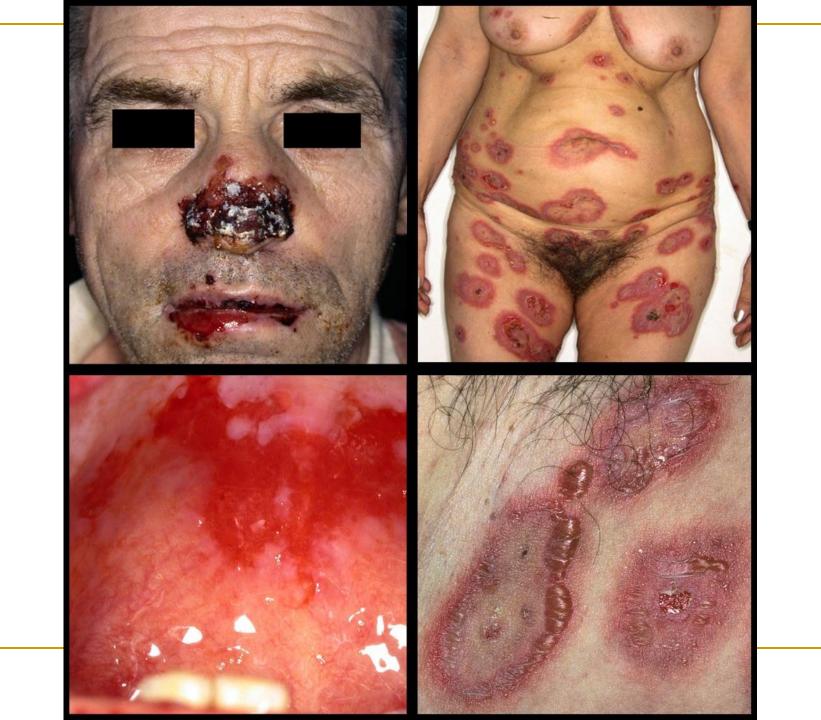


Anti-retikulin-antibodies, Anti-endomysium-antibodies, Anti-gliadin-antibodies Gliadin-basal membrane overlapping Adenoviral infektion Chronic-superficial enteritis Atrophic enteritis Complete atrophy of enteral villi

Autoaggressive intraepithelial T3-Lymphocytes (IEL): >40/100 epithelial cells

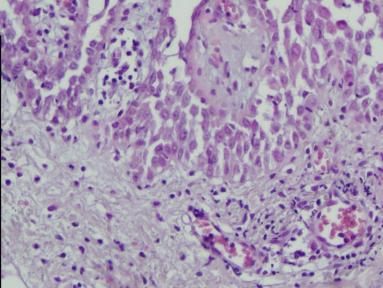
Bullous Pemphigoid

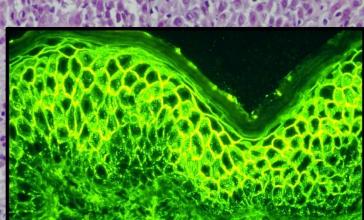




Pemphigus vulgaris







- non-healing inflammation of the liver with

- typical but not specific/pathognomic histological picture
- hypergammaglobulinemia
- seral autoantibodies
- no known etiology (genetic, toxic, viral, etc.)

- diagnostic criteria of AIH

- clinically: symptomatic (fatigue, fluctuating icterus, arthralgia, etc.) or asymptomatic
- women > men, in younger age groups
- coexpression with other autoimmune diseases

- biochemically hypogammaglobulinemia with selective elevated IgG-levels

- AST/ALT variably (between normal -50x)
- ALP variably (until slightly elevated)
- Bilirubin (fluctuating)

- serologic characteristics (autoantibodies)
 - non-organ specific antibodies (Ab)
 - anti-nucleare Ab (ANA)
 - anti-smooth-muscle Ab (SMA)
 - anti-neutrophil-cytoplasmatic Ab (pANCA)
 - liver-specific antibodies
 - anti-asialoglycoprotein-receptor Ab (anti-ASGPR) anti-solubile-liver Ab (anti SLA) anti-liver-pancreasantigen Ab (anti-LP) anti-livercytosol Ab Typ-1 (anti-LC1) anti-liver/kidney-microsom Ab Typ-1 (anti-LKM1)
- classification by serologic markers (antibody profile)
 - Typ-1: ANA/SMA positive (anti-SLA/LP positive, anti-ASSGPR, pANCA positive); frequency rate: 80%
 - Typ-2: anti-LKM1 positive (almost always severe disease of young women); frequency rate: 3-4 %
 - Typ-3: anti-SLA/LP positive (ANA/SMA positive); frequency rate: 3-4 %

- histologic characteristics
 - 'Interface'- (limiting plate-) Hepatitis
 - periportal, periseptal
 - predominantly lymphoplasmacytic inflammation
 - slight to moderate acinar involvement
 - bridging necroses/-fibroses
 - porto-potal
 - centro-portal
 - rosette like arrangement of hepatocytes
 - nodular regeneration
 - no bile duct damage or granuloma
 - multinuclear hepatocellular giant cells (in children 23%)
 - cirrhosis

interface-hepatitis

bridging necrosis

Autoimmune hepatitis (AIH) – Sirius Red

bridging fibrosis

rosette

Autoimmune hepatitis (AIH) - histologic scoring system of AIH **Points Microscopic findings** 'Interface'-Hepatitis +3predominantly lymphoplasmacytic Infiltrates +1rosette formation +1none of the above -5 bile duct change -3 changes referring to other etiology -3

- histologic scoring system of AIH: interpretation of altogether values*

Definitive AIH	>15
Probable AIH	10-15
No AIH	<10

After therapy

Definitive AIH	>17
Probable AIH	12-17

* Altogether values although are quantitative, yet do not refer to severity of the disease .

- role of histology in the diagnostics of AIH
 - typical, yet not specific
 - important is to exclude other liver diseases
 - no diagnosis of AIH is advisible without histology

Biliary liver cirrhosis

- damage of (smaller or larger) bile ducts >> cholestasis >> liver cell damage with necrosis >> cirrhosis (colour deep green)
- causes are (a) 'primary' o. (b) secondary:
 - (a) *primary biliary cirrhosis* (PBC) and *primary sclerosing cholangitis* (PSC) are **autoimmune diseases** of the **intrahepatic** small bile ducts
 - (b) *secondary biliary cirrhosis* develops following chronic progressive stenosis (e.g. intra- or extra luminar tumor, scarring stricture, lithiasis, iatrogenic-postoperative, etc.) of **extrahepatic** large bile ducts and is generally therefore of no autoimmune nature

- the (b) secondary cholestasis is often complicated by ascending cholangitis (a cholestasis of this type progresses often intermittingly and slowly over longer time >> gradual ascensus of enterobacteria from duodenum >> multiple micro-abscesses along bile-filled and dilated ducts)

Primary biliary cirrhosis (PBC)

- <u>Definition</u>: a chronic progressive destructive nonsuppurative cholangitis of smaller intrahepatic (interlobular) bile ducts

- PBC is followed by scarring and cirrhotic remodelling of liver parenchyma

- suspected autoimmune pathomechanism
- sex distribution: female dominance of 6:1
- patients are tipically of middle aged groups
- leading clinic clinical symptoms skin itchiness, later hyperpigmentation, xanthelasmae

- labordiagnostically: elevated serum-phosphatase and serum-cholesterinvalues, proof of autoantibodies (v.a. AMA), later hyperbilirubinaemia

- in cirrhotic stage symptoms and complications are like those in cirrhoses of other etiologies

 - in PBC parallel autoimmune diseases are common: e.g. Sjögrensyndrome, rheumatoid Arthritis, Glomerulonephritides, Sclerodermia, Cöliakia, Raynaud-disease

Primary biliary cirrhosis (PBC)

histologically 4 stages are defined *Stage I.*: chronic destructive non-suppurative cholangitis – around small interlobular bile ducts intensive lymphocytic infiltrates and frequent formation of granulomas. Within hepatocytes often proof of copper-protein-complexes. No cholestasis at this stage.

- Stages II. and III.: progressive proliferation and scarring of bile ducts with cholestasis

- Stage IV .: classic cirrhosis and severe cholestasis

Primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC)

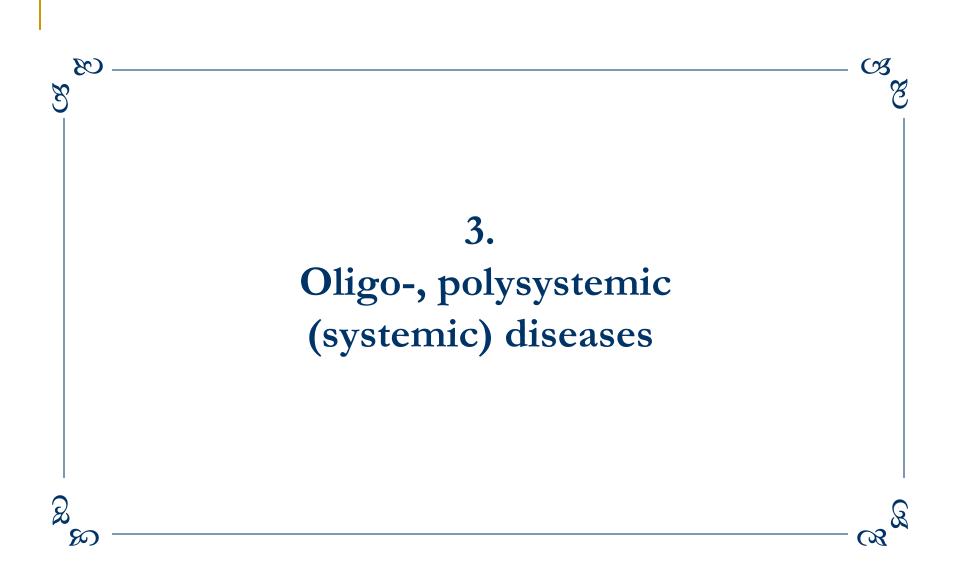
disease of the middle and large sized (intra- and extrahepatic) bile ducts with inflammation fibrosis and progressive stenosis
radiologically typical picture: varyingly and irregularly stenosed and

dilated bile ducts

- suspicion for autoimmune etiology

- male dominance: M/W 2:1
- coexpression with ulcerative colitis to 70% (!) of PSC-patients
- leading clinical symptoms: fatigue, itching (*pruritus*), progressive icterus
- labordiagnostically: elevated se-alk. phosphatase-values
- transmission to a cholangiocarcinoma is possible
- therapeutically liver transplantation

- histomorphology fibrosing progressive cholangitis with onion skinlike concentric collagenic fibres and dense lymphocytic infiltrates around diseased bile ducts >> stenosis and obliteration of ducts with destruction of epithelial lining >> dilation and cholestasis of the prestenotic ducts >> end stage: biliary cirrhosis



Oligo-, polysystemic (systemic) diseases

- 1. SLE (discoid, subacute-cutanous, chronic, connatal, drug-induced)
- 2. Sjögren-Syndrome ("Sicca-Syndrome")
- 3. Sclerodermia (systemic sclerosis)
- 4. Rheumatoid arthritis
- 5. Idiopathic inflammatoric Myopathy
- (Dermatomyositis, Polymyositis)
- 6. Reiter-Syndrome

Systemic lupus erythematosus – SLE

Definition: a disease with chronic-periodic course of immunologic damages to peripheral small arteries (immune vasculitis) creating a compound clinical picture with changes in various organs.
– variants in namings and forms

- *Lupus erythematosus disseminatus* – synonym for *SLE*, a generalised Form

- *Lupus sine lupo* – a visceral variant without the typical butterfly shaped facial skin appearances (70-80% of SLE cases appear with skin eruptions)

- *Discoide lupus erythematosus* (DLE) – a chronic photosensitive skin eruption typically within the confines of sun-exposed areas like the cheeks, nose, ear, nuchae, hands, later followed by pigmentation, atrophy, scarring, alopecia

 histologically swelling/thickening of collagen fibers and fibrinoid degeneration with leukocyte and lymphoplasmacellular infiltrates
 primarily within walls of small arteries

SLE – Etiology and pathogenesis

- Viral: EBV (?)

- Sexual hormones
 - 90% of patients are females between 20-30 years of age
 - disease progression on oestrogenic therapy
 - androgenes act against the disease

- Genetic factors

- HLA-DR2, HLA-DR3
- C3b
- Immuncomplex-elimination
- Possibly associated immunologic anomalies and diseases
 - chronic autoimmune hepatitis (AIH)
 - Crohn's disease
 - rheumatoid arthritis
 - Sjögren-syndrome
 - Hashimoto-thyreoiditis

SLE – Clinical presentation

Typically multiorgan changes with active phases and remissions often starting acutely with a high and irregular course of long-term fever, polyarthritis and the typical butterfly shaped bilateral facial erythema *General symptoms*: bad general feeling, loss of appetite, tiredness, weight loss, fever

-Joints: painful polyarthritis later with deformities

Skin: facial butterfly shaped exanthemas, lilac to red efflorescences
 upon light-exposed areas and extensor sides of extremities
 Kidneys: focal or diffuse glomerulonephritis (so-called wireloop- or

lupus-nephritis) clinically presenting with nephrosis syndrome, finally uraemia

- Cardiovascular: Liebman-Sacks endocarditis, myocarditis and stenosing coronary vasculitis, thrombophlebitides, Raynaud-syndrome

– Respiratory organs: serous pleuritis (together with pericarditis and peritonitis: polyserositis), callous formation, interstitial pneumonia (pneumonitis)

- GI-tract: hepatosplenomegaly, ,lupoid' hepatitis, ulcerative colitis

SLE – Antibodies

against serum proteins: complement and hemostatic proteins

against antigenes of circulating blood cells:
erythrocytes, thrombocytes, leukocytes, lymphocytes
against cytoplasmatic proteins: microfilaments,
microtubuli, lysosomal, ribosomal proteins
against nuclear antigenes: anti-dsDNS, Sm/RNP (*Smith* extractable nuclear Ab+Ribonucleoprotein extractable nuclear Ab): a
pathognomic immunologic change

SLE – Diagnosis

- 1. Butterfly facial erythema (Dermatitis)
- 2. Discoid Lupus
- 3. Photosensitivity
- 4. Mucosal ulceration
- 5. Arthritis
- 6. Pleuritis, Pericarditis
- 7. Glomerulonephritis
- 8. CNS-changes

9. Hemopoietic system
9.1. Hemolytic Anemie
9.2. Leukopenia
9.3. Lymphopenia
9.4. Thrombocytopenia
10. Immunologic changes
10.1. anti-DNA AK
10.2. anti-Sm AK
10.3. Fas-positive VDRL test *or* positive anti-cardiolipin Ab-test
11. Antinuclear Ab

For diagnosis at least 4/11 positivities needed

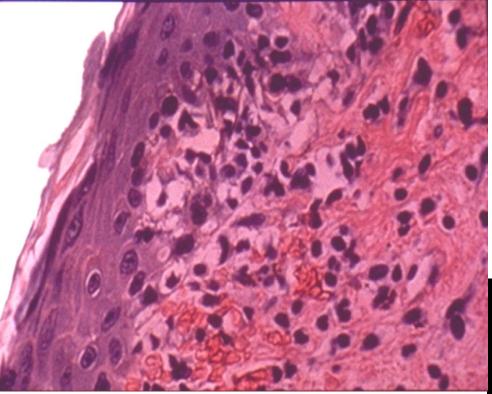
Antinuclear antibodies (immunofluorescence)



Antinuclear antibodies in autoimmune diseases						
Antigen	Anti- bodies	SLE	Diffuse SSC	Limited SSC	Sjögren- syndrome	PM
Native DNS	Antidouble- lined DNS	++	_	-	_	_
RNP (Smith-Ag)	Anti-Sm	+	_	-	_	-
RNP	SS-A (Ro)	+	-	-	++	-
RNP	SS-B (La)	+	_	-	++	-
Topoiso- merase	Scl-70	_	++	+	_	-
Centromer	Anti- Centromer	_	+	++	_	-
Histidil- tRNS- Syntetase	Jo-1	_	_	_	_	+

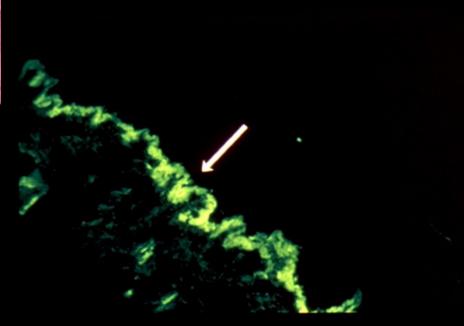






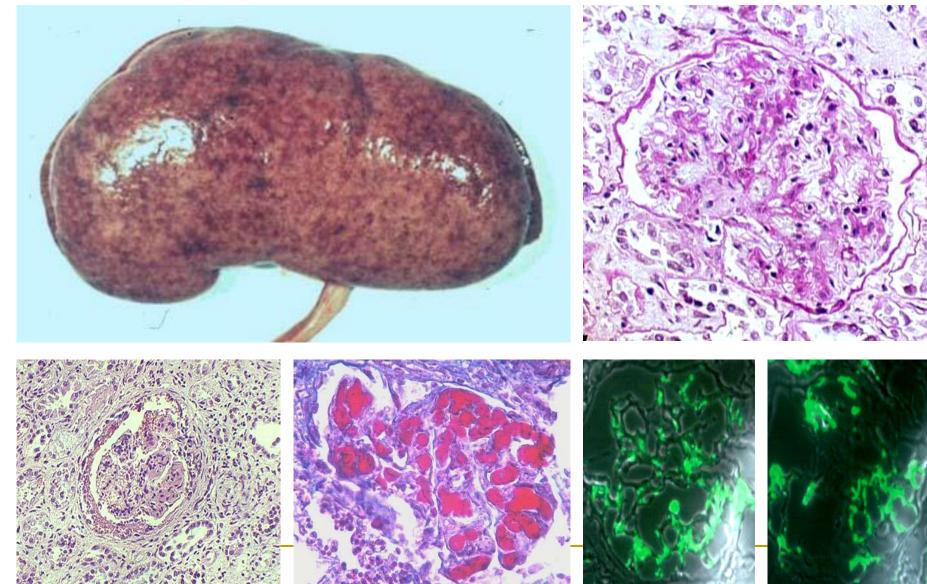
SLE

H&E: Lysis of basal cells in the epidermis



Granular immundeposits along the dermo-epidermal junction

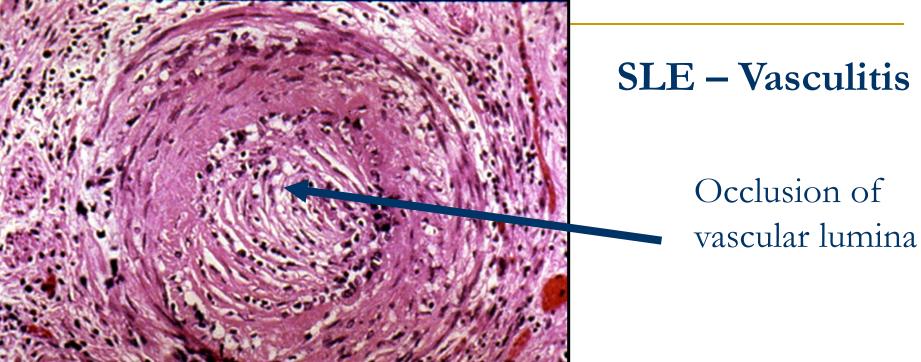




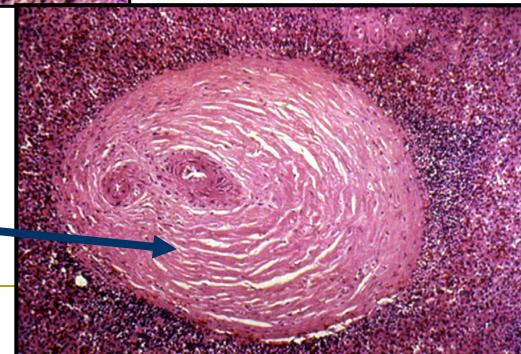
Wire-loop Lesion (a glomerular alteration)

Libman-Sacks endocarditis in SLE





Perivascular fibrosis (onion skin lesion) in the spleen



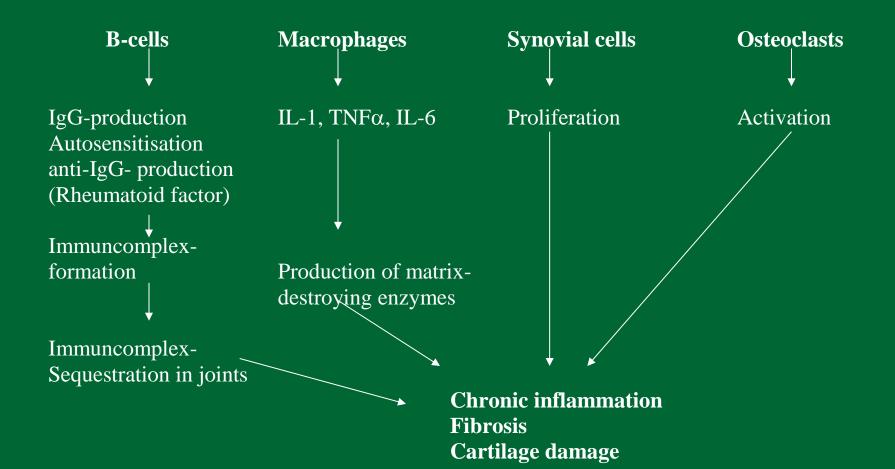
Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)



RA – Pathomechanism

New AG on synoviale surfaces + genetic predisposition

CD4+ T-cell activation (IL-2, IFNγ, TNFα, GM-CSF, IL-6)



RA – Pathomechanism

- Derangement of the humoral immune system: Rhfactor

- Derangement of the cellular immune system : T-helperactivation

- Possible role of infections (??): EBV, Parvovirus, Mycoplasma, Mycobacterium

	RA – Variants in appearances
Joints	Arthritis
Skin	rheumatoid nodules, vasculitis
Eyes	episcleritis, uveitis, retinitis, glaucoma, cataract
Lung	pleuritis, interstitial fibrose
Heart	pericarditis, myocarditis, coronary- arteritis, endocarditis
CNS	multiple neuritides

RA – Morphology

- synovial hypertrophy, villus fomation
- cartilage damaging
- pannus formation
- rheumatid granuloma
- vasculitis

Rheumatoid arthritis – synovial hypertrophy with intraarticular papillary growths. Cartilage destruction.

Subcutaneous rheumatoid nodules

Rheumatoid granuloma

Progressive systemic sclerosis – PSS

- Definition: a chronic stiffening, fibrosis, sclerosis and shrinkage/retraction of cutaneous, subcutaneous and visceral connective tissues
- above all in females between 35-50 years of age
- Synonyms
 - Systemic sclerosis -
 - Sclerodermia –
 - Progressive Systemic Sclerosis (PSS) -

 histologically in the periphery of sclerosing a predominantly lymphoplasmahistiocytic, fibroblastic infiltration, obliterating arteriitis and intimal proliferation

Sclerodermia

(progressive systemic sclerosis)

 Diffus sclerodermia (systemic sclerosis) fibrosis of the skin gastrointestinal tract lungs kidneys and heart

- Limited sclerodermia : sog. CREST-sy.
 - C calcinosis cutis
 - R Raynaud sy.
 - E esophageal dismotility
 - S sclerodactylia
 - T teleangiectasia

PSS – Clinical presentation

- general symptoms : general weakness, weight loss, muscle and joint pains, fever, accelerated blood sedimentation. Long-term prognosis bad with uncontrolled progression and death because of cardiac pulmonary or renal disease

- *Skin*: through scarring of connective tissue framework shrinkage of the cutaneous surfaces, narrowing, atrophy, later necrosis and ulceration of acral parts (above all fingertips). Finger movements becomes limited (*Sklerodaktylie*), the palm of the hand is contracted, the face is stretched with poor in mimics, the nose is pointed and narrow, the oral opening is slimmed and little movable surrounded by radially wrinkled skin, the lips are slim and retracted so the teeth are visible, limitation of neck movements because of skin stretching

- Soft tissues: Extensive calcifications (calcinosis)

- *GI-tract*: limited esophageal and gastric movements the esophagitis becomes a narrowed stiff tube causing problems of swallowing and esophagitis and ulceration

- Lung: interstitial fibrosis with cor pulmonale chronicum

- Heart: myocardial fibrosis and low output syndrome arrhythmias

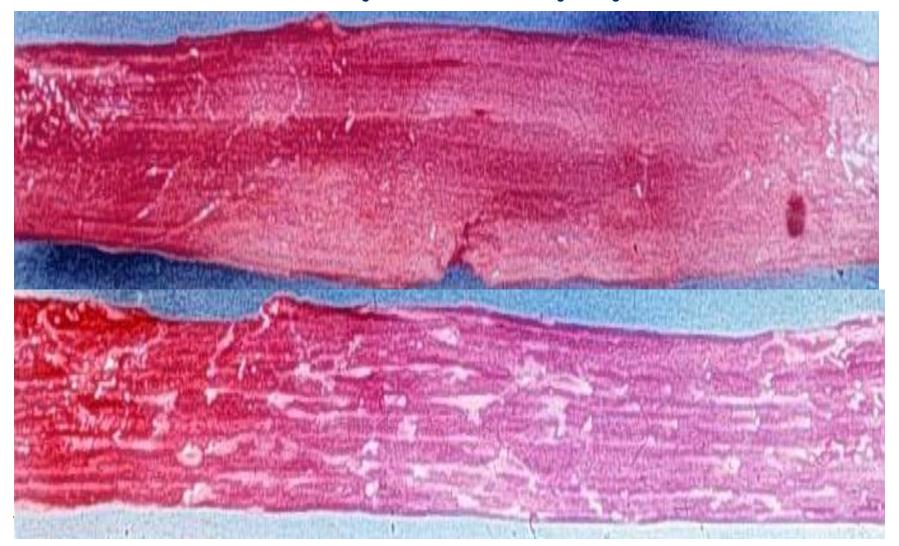
Sclerodermia (PSS) – Pathomechanism

- unknown extracellular matrix-antigen
- immune activity changes (IL-4, TGFb...)
- endothelial damage
- vascular proliferation

Extensive dermal deposition of thick collagene fibers, complete abscence of dermal appendiges

Antinuclear antibodies in autoimmune diseases						
Antigen	Anti- bodies	SLE	Diffuse SSC	Limited SSC	Sjögren- syndrome	PM
Native DNS	Antidouble- lined DNS	++	-	-	_	_
RNP (Smith-Ag)	Anti-Sm	+	_	_	_	-
RNP	SS-A (Ro)	+	-	-	++	-
RNP	SS-B (La)	+	_	-	++	-
Topoiso- merase	Scl-70	-	++	+	_	-
Centromer	Anti- Centromer	_	+	++	_	_
Histidil- <u>tRNS-</u> Syntetase	Jo-1		_	_	_	+

Idiopathic inflammatory Myopathy (IMP): Dermatomyositis, Polymyositis



IMP – Clinical presentation

– *Definition*: generalised inflammatory disease of striated muscles and the surrounding skin (*Dermatomyositis*). Muscular inflammation without cutaneous component is possible (*Polymyositis*).

- *General symptoms*: initially fever, general weakness, gait, dysphagia, speech derangements, diffuse or localised erythema, dermatitis, oedema, later Raynaud-syndrome. In about 20% of the cases there is in the background an evolving or already existing malignancy.

- Epidemiology: typical disease of elderly women
- Pathogenesis: can follow an acute or chronic course
- *Serology*: elevation of alpha- and gammaglobulins antinuclear antibodies *Joints*: painful arthritis
- *Prognosis*: will be defined by the severity of the accompanying visceral components as well as by the development of the background malignancy



Dermatomyositis (skin lesions)

Polymyositis

CD8

Antinuclear antibodies in autoimmune diseases						
Antigen	Anti- körper	SLE	Diffuse SSC	Limitierte SSC	Sjögren- Syndrom	PM
Native DNS	Antidoppel- läufige DNS	++	-	-	-	-
RNP (Smith-Ag)	Anti-Sm	+	-	-	-	-
RNP	SS-A (Ro)	+	-	-	++	-
RNP	SS-B (La)	+	_	_	++	-
Topoiso- merase	Scl-70	-	++	+	-	-
Zentromer	Anti- Zentromer	-	+	++	-	-
Histidil- tRNS- Syntetase	Jo-1	_	_	_	_	+