

Anca testing: understanding and interpretation of the test results

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The diagnostic utility of ANCA testing in vasculitis patients is well established. However, to maximize diagnostic accuracy, parallel testing by indirect immunofluorescence and by antigen specific solid phase immunoassay are necessary. Different methodological aspects of ANCA testing with clinical relevance will be discussed. Both potential methodological pitfalls and clinical differential diagnostic problems will be illustrated using specific cases

of granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA), microscopic polyangiitis (MPA), cocaine-induced midline destructive lesions (CIMDL) and infections.

Serial ANCA testing for clinical monitoring in follow-up of patients with established diagnosis has been controversial. The existing literature as well as recent trial results and their application to individual cases will be discussed.