

Special Issue

The Importance of Diagnosing and Predicting Rheumatic Diseases: Biomarkers, Indexes and Tools

Message from the Guest Editors

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a common systemic autoimmune disease with a prevalence of around 1% in the general population. Although the aetiopathogenesis of RA has not been fully elucidated, it is considered a complex disease in which the interaction between genetic, environmental and stochastic factors leads to a chronic infiltration of the synovial membrane by a variety of cells of the immune system, and, finally, radiographic progression and joint destruction. It should be noted that cardiovascular and pulmonary comorbidities now constitute the main causes of mortality in RA. In this sense, the biomarkers under development to predict patients who are at risk of developing these comorbidities are of special interest, with the aim of anticipating their diagnosis and establishing early treatment. This Special Issue attempts to review the best predictive models of the evolution of the disease and provide tools to help the physician to make decisions about the best treatment for the patient. In this Special Issue, we will also address the importance of some biomarkers for the early detection of the main comorbidities associated with RA.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (30 April 2024)



Life

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Impact Factor 3.2
CiteScore 4.3
Indexed in PubMed



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