# PLASMAPHERESIS IN RHEUMATOLOGICAL DISEASES

Essay
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#### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations	Meaning	
AABB	American association of blood banks	
AAV	Associated small vessel vasculitis	
ACPA	Anti citrullinated protein antibody	
AD	Alzheimer's disease	
ADAMTS	A Disintegrin And Metalloproteinase wit	h
. **	Thrombospondin Motifs	
AH	Alveolar haemorrhage	
AMA ANA	Anti-mitochondrial antibody	
ANCA	Anti nuclear antibody Anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibody	
Anti-B2GPJ	Anti-B2 glycoprotein I	
Anti-CCP	Anti-cyclic citrullianted peptide	
anti-CENP-B	Centromere-protein B	
anti-ds-DNA	Double stranded DNA	
anti-histone	Histone protein	
anti-Jo-1	Patient name	
anti-Ku or anti-SL	Patient name or sicca lupus antigen	
anti-PM-Scl (PM1)	Polymyositis sclerodermic antigen 100 kDa	
Anti-PR3	Anti-proteinase 3	
anti-Scl-70	Scleroderma antigen 70 kDa	
anti-Sm	Smith-antigen	
anti-SS-A/Ro	Robert-antigen or soluble substance A nuclear antigen	
anti-SS-B/La	Lane-antigen or soluble substance B nuclear antigen	
anti-ss-DNA	Single stranded DNA	
anti-U1-snRNP	Small nuclear uridine-rich ribonucleoproteins	
aPL	Anti-phospholipid antibody	
APS	Anti-phospholipid syndrome	
ARF	Acute renal failure	
ASFA	American society for apheresis	
$\mathbf{BW}$	Body weight	

# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS (Cont...)

Meaning
Cytoplasmic ANCA
Catastrophic antiphospholipid syndrome
Chemokine ligand 2
Chemokine X chemokine ligand 2
Centrifugation
Cryoglobulinaemia
Complete heart block
Circulatory immune complex
Coupled plasma filtration adsorption
Coupled plasma filtration immune adsorption
Calcinosis, Raynaud's phenomenon, esophageal dysmotility, sclerodactyly
Continuous renal replacement therapy
Cyclosporine A
Hepatitis C virus
Diffuse alveolar haemorrhage
Dermatomyositis
Disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs
Double stranded DNA
Enzyme linked immunosorbent assay
Estimated plasma volume
Fresh frozen plasma
Glomerular basement membrane
Guillian-Barre syndrome
Haematocrit
Hydroxyethylstarch solution
Human immuno-deficinecy virus
Human leucocytic antigen

# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS (Cont...)

Abbreviations	Meaning
HSP	Human epidermoid carcinoma, larynx, hela markers
HSP	Henoch schonlein purpura
HTLV	Human T-lymphotropic virus
HUS	Hemolytic uremic syndrome
IC	Immune complex
IFA	Immunofluorescence assay
IgM	Immunoglobulin M
IVCY	Intravenous cyclophosphamide pulse therapy
IVIG	Intra venous immunoglobulin
LA	Lupus anti-coagulant
Le CELLS	Lupus erythromatosus cells
LN	Lupus nephritis
MAHA	Microangiopathic hemolytic anemia
MAS	Macrophage activation syndrome
MC	Mixed cryoglobulinemia
MCTD	Mixed connective tissue disease
MCV	Anti-mutated citrullinated vimentin
MP	Microscopic polyangitis
MPO	Myeloperoxidase
MTX	Methotrexate
MW	Molecular weight
NMO	Neuromyelitis optica
PA or PP	Plasmapheresis
P-ANCA	Perinuclear ANCA
PBC	Primary biliary cirrhosis
PCNA	proliferating cell nuclear antigen
PF	Plasma filtration
PRS	Pulmonary renal syndrome

# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS (Cont...)

Abbreviations	Meaning
RA	Rheumatoid arthritis
RF	Rheumatoid factor
RIA	Radioimmuno assay
RPGN	Rapidly progressive glomerulonephritis
RPLS	Reversible posterior leukoencephalopathy syndrome
s-IBM	Sporadic inclusion body myositis
SJS	Sjogren's syndrome
SLE	Systemic lupus erythromatosus
SOJIA	Systemic onset juvenile idiopathic arthritis
SSC	Systemic sclerosis
TA	Takayasu arteritis
TMA	Thrombotic microangiopathy
TPE	Therpaeutic plasma exchange
TROVE	Telomerase ro-vault element
TTP	Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura
VHC	Viral hepatitis C
VT	Vascular thrombosis



#### INTRODUCTION

Plasmapheresis (PP) is an extracorporeal technique used to remove pathogenic macromolecules from the plasma. Plasmapheresis is used to treat neurological, renal, hematological as well as systemic diseases, which explains why many different specialties in medicine can be involved. Plasmapheresis has evolved in forty years into a frequently used, relatively safe procedure. Nowadays a large spectrum of different techniques exists, each with its own possible complications (*Pruijm et al.*, 2008).

Yu et al. (2007) evaluated the efficacy of plasmapheresis in the treatment of patients with active rheumatoid arthritis through selective removal of large molecular weight substances like rheumatoid factor and IgM. They reported that PP therapy significantly altered the signs and symptoms of active rheumatoid arthritis. There were increases in physical function and improvement in quality of life.

VRT101 is a 21-mer peptide located at the globular part of the laminin-alpha chain. Anti-VRT101 antibodies are abundantly detected in the serum of patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and correlate with disease activity. Specific removal of serum anti-VRT101 by extracorporeal plasmapheresis with specific immunoadsorption on the VRT101-coupled sepharose

columns may serve as a new therapeutic tool for specific immunoadsorption of pathogenic antibodies in SLE patients (*Amital et al.*, 2007).

Sanna et al. (2008) reviewed the clinical approach to therapy in patients with SLE and neuropsychiatric involvement and reported that plasmapheresis may also be added in severe cases of symptoms refractory to conventional treatment.

Ferri (2008) reported also that plasmapheresis altered the progression and severity of the clinical manifestations in patients suffering from mixed cryoglobulinemia. Scarpato et al. (2007) reported that plasmapheresis can be used as effective further therapy to minimize cutaneous, renal and/or neurologic involvement.

PP also used in vasculitis for example Kawasaki disease which is an acute, self-limited vasculitis of childhood. Markers of inflammation, such as CCL2 and CCXCL10, contribute to the pathology and the diagnosis of Kawasaki disease. *Pinna et al.* (2008) reported that forms of the disease refractory to intravenous administration of immunoglobulin therapy responded to plasmapheresis.

Plasmapheresis may be used to treat pregnant women with documented antiphospholipid syndrome when first lines (aspirin and/or heparin) fail to prevent pregnancy loss (*El-Haieg et al.*, 2007).

Choy et al. (2005) reported on a systematic evidence review of immunotherapy for dermatomyositis and polymyositis. The authors concluded that this systematic review highlights the lack of high quality randomised controlled trials that assess the efficacy and toxicity of immunosuppressants in inflammatory myositis.

#### **AIM OF THE WORK**

This essay aims to study various techniques of plasmapheresis and their role in treatment of different rheumatological diseases.