Dear Editor,

In previous reports, we have described the presence of the neutrophil chemotactic factor (NCF) in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and the importance of its role in the pathogenesis of the disease. However, we have also noted that the NCF level is lower in patients with RA than in controls, suggesting that the role of NCF in the pathogenesis of RA may be different from that in other inflammatory diseases.

To further investigate this hypothesis, we performed a retrospective analysis of the NCF levels in a series of patients with RA and controls. We included 60 patients with RA and 30 controls. The patients were classified as having active or inactive disease based on the modified disease activity score (DAS) and the presence of extraarticular manifestations.

The results showed that the NCF level was significantly lower in patients with active RA than in controls (P < 0.05). The NCF level was also lower in patients with extraarticular manifestations than in those without them (P < 0.05).

These findings suggest that the NCF level may be a useful marker for the assessment of disease activity and extraarticular manifestations in patients with RA. Further studies are needed to confirm these results and to investigate the role of NCF in the pathogenesis of RA.

We thank all the patients and controls who participated in this study. We also thank the laboratory staff for their help in performing the NCF assays.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Institution]
Hand radiography: an indicator of upper cervical disease in rheumatoid arthritis.

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