Table 1 Blood groups and HLA tissue types in 23 patients with fibrodysplasia ossificans progressiva

No.	Sex	Year of Birth	ABO group	Rh type	HLA A locus	HLA B locus
1	F	1955	A	Pos	3, 11	7, 18
2	F	1952	A	Pos	2, 29	12
3	F	1920	A	Pos	2, 3	12, 27
4	F	1922	B	Pos	2, 3	7, 15
5	M	1949	O	Pos	2, 29	8, 12
6	M	1965	O	Pos	3, 10	7, 12
7	M	1960	O	Pos	11, 29	12, (21)
8	M	1972	ND	ND	1, 11	8, W6
9	M	1963	O	Pos	1, 9	8, 17
10	M	1953	A	Pos	1, 3	8, 12
11	F	1951	AB	Pos	1, 28	8, 12
12	F	1947	A	Pos	1	5, 8
13	F	1950	A	Pos	1	8
14	M	1940	A	Pos	1, 2	7, 17
15	M	1952	A	Pos	1, 10	8
16	F	1947	O	Pos	28, 32	14
17	M	1960	O	Pos	28	17, 37
18	M	1949	O	Pos	2, 29	12, 27
19	F	1910	A	Pos	1, 28	8, 15
20	M	1971	A	Pos	2, 3	18, 21
21	M	1965	AB	Pos	1, 2	8, 12
22	F	1944	A	Neg	3, 32	14
23	F	1956	O	Pos	2, 10	27

progressiva (FOP, synmyositis ossificans progressiva), a rare autosomal dominant disorder in which there is progressive ossification in the soft tissues. The clinical features of these patients have been described elsewhere.² The HLA, ABO, and Rh phenotypes are given in Table 1.

Three patients were B27-positive (13.0%) compared with 50 of 550 controls (9.1%). None of the other HLA antigens were significantly different from the controls. Furthermore, the severity of ectopic ossification was not associated with any HLA antigen.

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References

- 1 Shapiro R F, Wiesner K B, Bryan B L, Utsinger P D, Resnick D, Castles J J. HLA B27 and modified bone formation. *Lancet* 1976; i: 230-1.
- 2 Connor J M, Evans D A P. Fibrodysplasia ossificans progressiva. The clinical features and natural history of 34 patients. *J Bone Joint Surg* 1982; 64B: 76-83.

Book reviews

Articular Synovium: Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Pharmacology and Therapy. International Symposium on Articular Synovium, Bruges, October 1981. Ed. P. Franchimont. Pp.184. SFr.114. S. Karger: Basel.1982.

I have read this little book with interest and profit. The text comprises the substance of 15 papers given at a symposium on synovial tissue held in October 1981 under the combined auspices of Cilag AG and McNeil Pharmaceutical.

The reason why this book excites interest is that the majority of the authors have taken the opportunity to give individual accounts of their views and often of their techniques. This is not so with chapter 1 (Bassleer *et al.*), which is a long, conventional, and rather dated survey of synovial histology. Chapter 2 (Faure *et al.*) by contrast is a clear brief description of the analysis of rheumatoid (RA) synovial cell populations by monoclonal antibodies. Swann (chapter 4) fully explains *lubricin* (lubricating glycoprotein-I), and Chayen and Bitensky (chapter 5) give one of their best short accounts of normal and abnormal synovial cellular biochemistry. Russell and his colleagues (chapter 6) tell us of their work on the regulation of synovial proteinases and give a valuable short review of the background to this work. E. D. Harris (chapter 8) offers a philosophy of joint destruction in RA, though many may prefer his compelling chapter

in Kelley's textbook; and Gysen *et al.* (chapter 10) taken us into the relatively unexplored field of synovial fluid N-terminal procollagen type III peptide in relation to synovitis and tissue injury.

This is an excellent companion for a long railway journey and a valuable guide to the thoughts of a number of experts in the experimental study of synovial joint disease.

D. L. GARDNER

People With Arthritis Need Help and Support. A report on services available for rheumatic sufferers. By P. H. N. Wood and E. M. Bradley. Pp. 20. 50p. ARC: London, 1981.

This pamphlet, from the ARC Rheumatology Research Unit, is the third in the series with which rheumatologists will be familiar. As such it provides a very useful compendium of facts for the rheumatologist and for those interested in the delivery of health care. The style and format will be familiar to those who have read Dr Wood's previous publications and particularly interesting for those who understand the ICD Rubrics.

The statistics are of course dependent on the Department of Health's statistics and SH3 returns, and those of us who