48-Kd La. Comparison of ELISA and Western blot produced a good intermethod agreement coefficient when anti-recombinant antibodies from sera in group A were tested: 60-Kd Ro ($k = 0.563$) and 52-Kd Ro ($k = 0.652$). Both groups were similar regarding of baseline characteristics, except that patients in group A who were younger at the time of diagnosis than those of group B (mean 39.9 v/s 63.7 years), and hipergammaglobulinemia was more frequent in group A than B. Extraglandular manifestations were similar in both groups.

Conclusion The detection of antibodies to recombinant 60-Kd Ro, 52-Kd Ro and 48-Kd La proteins, might be a new research tool as well as an aid for the diagnosis of SS, mainly in cases who are seronegative for anti-Ro or La by conventional techniques.

FRI0217 PREDICTIVE VALUE OF OPHTHALMOLOGICAL TESTS IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF SECONDARY SJÖGREN SYNDROME IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS

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Background

Objectives To determine the usefulness of different ophtalmological tests as predictive tools in the diagnosis of Secondary Sjögren Syndrome (SSS) in patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis.

Methods 123 patients with RA were included in a transversal study. Xerophthalmia was assessed in 116 patients by Schirmer's test. Moreover, determination of tear film break-up (BUT) and Rose Bengal staining (Bijsterveld grading scale) were performed in 92 patients. Sicca symptoms, unstimulated salivary flow measurement, and testing for rheumatoid factor and antinuclear, anti-Ro/SSA and anti-La/SSB antibodies were also collected. Minor salivary gland biopsies were performed in 66 patients and graded according to Chisholm-Mason grading system. Statistical analysis was performed to determine sensitivity and specificity of each of the ophtalmological tests in the diagnosis of SSS by EEC criteria. **Results** Prevalence of SSS was 39.7% according to EEC criteria, and 20.3% according to modified EEC criteria. Sensitivity and specificity statistical studies showed the following results:

Abstract FRI0217 Table 1

	Sensitivity	Specificity	Positive predictive value	Negative predictive value
Schirmer's test < = 5 mm.	0.78 (0.63–0.87)	0.77 (0.65–0.85)	0.69	0.84
BUT < = 10 s	0.30 (0.16–0.46)	0.76 (0.63–0.85)	0.42	0.66
Rose Bengal > = 4	0.64 (0.47–0.77)	0.56 (0.43–0.67)	0.48	0.73

Conclusion Among ophtalmological tests used to assess xerophthalmia, a positive Schirmer's test is the best predictor of the occurrence of SSS in patients with RA.

FRI0218 RO/SSA AND LA/SSB SPECIFIC IGG AUTOANTIBODIES IN SERUM, TEAR AND SALIVA OF PATIENTS WITH SJÖGREN'S SYNDROME

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Background Detection of IgG autoantibodies against Ro/SSA and La/SSB is regarded as one of the diagnostic criterias of Sjögren's syndrome (SS).

Objectives We investigated the presence of these antibodies in serum, tear and saliva of patients with SS to show whether local antibody measurements are helpful in the diagnosis of SS.

Methods Serum, tear and saliva samples of 31 SS patients (16 primary and 15 sary SS) and 16 healthy controls were studied. The levels of anti-Ro/SSA and anti-La/SSB were detected by ELISA. Lacrimal gland functions were investigated by Schirmer-I test, Rose-Bengal test and tear break-up time. Dry eye symptoms of patients were also recorded.

Results Anti-Ro/SSA and Anti-La/SSB were detected in serum of 38.5% (12/31) and 51.6% (16/31) of patients, respectively. In tear samples the positivity was 19.4%(6/31) for anti-Ro/SSA and 45.2%(14/31) for anti-La/SSB. In saliva, antiRo/SSA and anti-La/SSB were detected in 25.8%(8/31) and 41.9%(13/31) of the SS patients, respectively. Serum anti-Ro/SSA negative 2 patients had positive anti-Ro/SSA either in saliva or tear samples. Similarly, 2 patients had positive anti-La/SSB in saliva and 4 had in tear samples, whilst anti-La/SSB was negative in their serum. Dry eye objective signs and symptoms were significantly impaired in patients with serum and tear anti-La/SSB positivity ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusion These results suggest that Ro/SSA and La/SSB antibodies could be detected in tear and saliva regardless of their presence in serum. Measurement of these antibodies in tear and saliva may be used as an adjunctive diagnostic procedure for SS patients.

FRI0219 AUTO-ANTIBODIES IN PRIMARY SJÖGREN SYNDROME PATIENTS AND HISTOPATHOLOGIC FINDINGS

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Background

Objectives We have analysed the prevalence of antinuclear antibodies (ANA), Rheumatoid Factor (RF), anti-Ro/SSA and anti-La/SSB antibodies in patients with Primary Sjögren Syndrome (PSS) and different grades of minor salivary gland biopsies.

Methods 120 patients with PSS were included. All patients fulfilled > = 4 criteria and had a lip biopsy. We analysed the prevalence of ANA, RF, Anti-Ro/SSA and anti-La/SSB antibodies with regard to different grades of minor salivary gland biopsies. All biopsies were evaluated and classified according to Chisholm-Mason system by the same pathologist. Chi-square and Fisher tests were used; sensitivity and specificity for a positive biopsy (grades III and IV) were calculated.

Results No significative differences were detected between patients with grade II and III biopsies. Significative differences between grade III and IV were achieved for ANA ($p = 0,02$) and RF ($p = 0,001$).