

Synovial antibody index as a marker of synovitis in knee osteoarthritis

Diz osteoartritinde sinovit belirteci olarak sinoviyal antikor indeksi

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Dear editor,

I was very delighted to read your latest issue with various articles about the different aspects of medicine. I was also pleased that among the authors were many faculties from multiple disciplines. I read, with interest, the study by Yılmaz et al. (vol.2, number 4, 2021) analyzing the antibody response of various viruses in patients with synovitis. I had several concerns about the article that I wanted to emphasize. First, the term "synovitis" has an extremely wide use among physicians with a very wide range of etiologies. The article pointed out that only advanced patients with knee osteoarthritis (Kelgreen stage 3-4) were included in the study group. Nevertheless, the type of osteoarthritis (primary or secondary) and the stage of synovitis (acute vs chronic or early vs late) and if the patients have any history of inflammatory diseases are not clear enough in the article (1,2). Second, the synovial antibody index, which was mentioned in the materials and methods section, had no reference. The authors used this index to get a definitive conclusion for the source of the viral antibodies in the synovial fluid. So it is the most important parameter in the study. I did a search in English literature and could not find any article defining an index like that. If this was a first description by the authors, then I recommend doing a validation analysis in a different study. Finally, the literature contains numerous studies analyzing the inflammatory reaction of the synovium against various viruses (3,4). In these studies, for the detection of the viral load, an immunohistochemical analysis of the synovial tissue was also frequently performed (5). In short, although well-designed, I believe that, it would have been much better if the study and control groups were meticulously composed with well-defined inclusion and exclusion criteria. Moreover, the synovial antibody index has to be clarified, it would be more helpful if a contribution

from the literature was added to the manuscript and an immunohistochemical analysis was added to the final conclusion.

Keywords: Synovitis, osteoarthritis, antibody

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