**ANA Testing Guidelines**
Washington State Clinical Laboratory Advisory Council

**History and physical examination (H&P)**

**SLE or Connective Tissue Disease suspected**

**ANA**

**Result of Test**

- **Positive**
  - **ANA pattern**
    - **DNA-binding (or Anti-DNA)**
      - Positive/abnormal: High DNA-binding (or Anti-DNA) and/or low CH50
        - **Anti-ENA, C3, C4**
          - **Nucleolar**
            - **SSc likely**
          - **Other pattern**
            - **Consider Sci-70**
              - **Neg**
          - **Pos**

- **Centromere**
  - **Pos**
  - **Neg**

- **Only RNP**
  - **Pos**
  - **Neg**

- **Jo-1**
  - **Pos**
  - **Neg**

- **Unidentified ENA**
  - **Pos**
  - **Neg**

**DNA-binding (or Anti-DNA)**

- **Normal**
  - **negative**

**SLE likely**

**Reassess H&P**

**SLE unlikely**

**Diagnosis by other clinical criteria**

- **SSA, CH50, IgA (especially in children)**
  - **Anti-Cardiolipin**
    - **Negative**
      - **Normal**
    - **Positive/Abnormal:**
      - Low CH50, Positive SSA, High Anti-Cardiolipin, and/or low IgA

  **Diagnosis by other clinical criteria**

  **SLE-negative SLE variant likely**

  **To follow SLE patient:**
  - Use history, physical examination, urinalysis, CBC, serum creatinine, and possibly one or more of the following: DNA-binding (Anti-DNA), C3, C4, CH50, Immune complexes

  **Limited cutaneous SSc (CREST Syndrome) likely**

  **Confirms Systemic Sclerosis**

  **Diagnosis by other clinical criteria**

  **Consider MCTD**

  **Confirms Polymyositis**

  **Diagnosis by other clinical criteria. Consider HIV or HCV infection.**

**Negative**

**Reassess H&P**

**SLE likely**

**SLE unlikely**

**Diagnosis by other clinical criteria**

**ANA negative**

**SLE variant likely**

**Suspect drug-induced ANA,** chronic autoimmune liver disease, chronic HCV infection, autoimmune thyroid disease, recent viral infection, elderly female population, etc

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**FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY**

The individual clinician is in the best position to determine which tests are most appropriate for a particular patient.

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**ANA**
- Anti Nuclear Antibodies

**ENA**
- Extractable Nuclear Antigen

**SLE**
- Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

**SSA**
- Sjogren’s Syndrome A Antibody

**SSB**
- Sjogren’s Syndrome B Antibody

**SSc**
- Systemic Sclerosis

**CTD**
- Connective Tissue Disease

**MCTD**
- Mixed Connective Tissue Disease

**Sci-70**
- Antibody to Sci-70 (topoisomerase I)

**Sm**
- Antibody to histidiy transfer RNA synthetase

**CREST**
- Calcinosis, Raynaud’s, Esophageal hypomotility, Sclerodacty, Telangectasia

**RNP**
- Ribonucleoprotein Antibody

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References:

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