

# Anti-TNF treatment ups ANA positivity in psoriasis

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"Although this study showed that ANA development appeared not to affect the efficacy of anti-TNF agents, future studies should examine the longitudinal changes in ANA titers and efficacy for longer observation periods," the authors write.

One author disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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(HealthDay)—For patients with psoriasis, treatment with anti-tumor necrosis factor (TNF) agents is associated with increased rates of antinuclear antibody (ANA) positivity, according to a letter to the editor published online Dec. 12 in the *Journal of Dermatology*.

Koichi Yanaba, M.D., Ph.D., from the Jikei University School of Medicine in Tokyo, and colleagues conducted a retrospective review of the clinical records of 66 Japanese [patients](#) with psoriasis treated with anti-TNF agents (infliximab or adalimumab) or ustekinumab. Patients treated with anti-TNF agents or ustekinumab were followed for a mean of 7.4 and 9.0 months, respectively.

The researchers found that during anti-TNF agent treatment there was an increase in ANA positivity in psoriasis patients from 48 to 69 percent ( $P = 0.038$ ) at a dilution of 1:40; from 21 to 40 percent ( $P = 0.045$ ) at a dilution of 1:80; and from 13 to 25 percent ( $P = 0.117$ ) at a dilution of 1:160. At these three cut-off dilutions, ANA positivity was not significantly changed by ustekinumab. There was no significant difference in the 75 percent reduction of Psoriasis Area and Severity Index score response rates for [psoriasis](#) patients whose ANA became positive during anti-TNF agent [treatment](#) and those whose ANA did not change.

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