

# Predicting relapses in patients with autoimmune vascular disease

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Patients with an autoimmune disorder called antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody-associated vasculitis produce antibodies that damage blood vessels in the body. In some cases, patients' antibodies target a protein called myeloperoxidase. New research published in *Arthritis & Rheumatology* indicates that for patients in remission, reappearance of antibodies against myeloperoxidase is a sign that patients will experience a relapse of their disease.

The findings suggest that patients should undergo routine monitoring of [antibodies](#) against myeloperoxidase.

"Our results could be helpful in daily clinical practice related to antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody-associated vasculitis," said co-author Dr. Ken-Ei Sada, of Okayama University Graduate School of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmaceutical Sciences, in Japan.

**More information:** *Arthritis & Rheumatology*,  
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