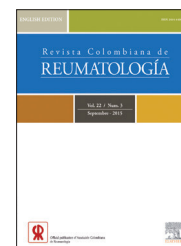




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Letter to the Editor

The Liver in Rheumatic Diseases[☆]

El hígado en enfermedades reumáticas

The reading of the editorial of the Vol. 22, N°. 1 of our REVISTA COLOMBIANA DE REUMATOLOGÍA has made me ponder on some punctual aspects:

1. Dr. Otero, who endorses the editorial note, implicitly suggests that the gamma glutamyl transferase only applies to define the origin of the alkaline phosphatase in a case of suspected cholestasis. However, it is known today that it plays an additional role as a biomarker of other pathological processes, including the risk of diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular disease.¹⁻⁴ Moreover, it can induce damage by itself. And there is no need to have an alteration of the liver or the biliary tract concomitantly.
2. To date, the denomination "lupoid hepatitis" could be wrong, but is not proper to make analogous statement for "lupus hepatitis".⁵
3. The reader would expect the editorial note to make a general overview of the articles included in the corresponding volume, giving its opinion and highlighting the importance of the article and the benefit of its reading, but not observing how, ready for action, it attempts to refute the opinion of a group that has made a meritorious effort. It would have been better not to have accepted the article for publication. Let me clarify, I am not opposed to that the opinion expressed in the articles is susceptible to contradiction or scientific debate. Quite the opposite, is good received, but never with the criterion of "il magister says". Even this note that I am sending may also be submitted to a welcomed discussion or objection.
4. Finally, and admitting that the topic of the liver involvement by SLE and its modalities is controversial, and much controverted, I am personally convinced that it does occur, although not with the same frequency as that of their classical target organs. Affirmation supported by liver biopsy,

negativity for AIH, PBC or other autoimmune commitments and, in addition, by the concept of a qualified pathologist, who is also internist and gastroenterologist.

Thanks for your attention, Dr. Quintana.

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