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Complement C4 - A Genetic Marker in Arthritides

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ABSTRACT The present study aims at evaluating the role of complement C4 and its specific eletromorphic association with arthritides. C4 typing of the serum samples was carried out by PAGE on 41 juvenile arthritis, 101 rheumatoid arthritis, 25 juvenile control subject and 76 adult control subjects. Complement C4 phenotype distribution revealed an increased preponderance of FS phenotype (61.0%) in juvenile arthritis, whereas in rheumatoid arthritis both FF (12.9%) and FS (70.3%) phenotypes were predominant with a significant association of FF phenotype with the condition. This reflects an association of the F allele with the condition. C4 may be one of the etiological factor in the arthritides and its role in handling the immune complex may be altered in rheumatoid arthritis.

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