

# Tracking levels of key biomarkers reflects disease activity and progression of rheumatoid arthritis

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New research has identified biomarkers associated with inflammation and progression in joint erosion in individuals with early rheumatoid arthritis (RA), according to the results of a new study presented at EULAR 2009, the Annual Congress of the European League Against Rheumatism in Copenhagen, Denmark. The researchers suggest a potential role for these biomarkers in the monitoring of ongoing disease activity through assessing inflammation and joint destruction, two important targets for the treatment of early RA.

Over the 12-month study period, levels of the serological biomarkers sYKL-40 and sMMP3 were consistently associated with three measures of disease activity: MRI (RAMRIS (RA MRI score) synovitis score and RAMRIS bone marrow oedema score) and clinical scores (DAS28\*) of inflammation (p

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