

CRP/ESR disagreement common in infection, inflammation

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(HealthDay)—For patients with suspected infection or inflammation, C-reactive protein (CRP)/erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) disagreement is common, according to a study published online Dec. 31 in the *International Journal of Rheumatic Diseases*.

Stephanie Spong, M.D., and Mark Feldman, M.D., from the Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas, examined simultaneously ordered CRP and ESR results for 70 [adult patients](#) with suspected infection or [inflammation](#). The authors examined CRP/ESR disagreements and their stability in repeat testing in adults who had been tested on three separate occasions.

The researchers found that in 20 percent of [patients](#) there were initial

CRP/ESR disagreements. Of these 14 patients, only four had stable disagreements throughout the study, while 10 patients later exhibited CRP/ESR agreements. Of the 56 patients with initial CRP/ESR agreement, on subsequent testing, 10 developed CRP/ESR disagreements.

"Three mechanisms were identified to explain CRP/ESR disagreements: (i) slight fluctuations in the CRP and ESR around the upper limits of normal for these tests; (ii) development of an intercurrent illness; and (iii) different time courses of CRP and ESR elevations, in which the CRP rose and fell faster than the ESR," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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