

CRP can help assess severity of acute ulcerative colitis

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(HealthDay)—A C-reactive protein (CRP) cutoff is a sensitive and

practical alternative to erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) as a criterion to help determine ulcerative colitis (UC) activity, according to a study published online Feb. 11 in the *Journal of Crohn's and Colitis*.

Anthony Croft, M.B.B.S., from the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital in Australia, and colleagues examined the equivalent CRP cutoff for an ESR of >30 mm/h using data from 163 presentations with severe UC. Confusion matrices were used to determine the corresponding CRP cutoff. Data were analyzed from a validation cohort comprising 128 presentations.

The researchers found that a CRP cutoff of ≥ 12 mg/L yielded a [positive predictive value](#) (PPV) of 85%, with sensitivity and accuracy of 95 and 82%, respectively, for having a paired ESR of >30 mm/h. No statistically significant differences were seen in presenting fecal calprotectin, Mayo endoscopic subscore, or in the rates of intravenous corticosteroid therapy failure and colectomy-by-discharge for the groups determined by traditional ESR versus the new CRP-based criteria. A PPV of 83% and sensitivity of 94% resulted from application of the CRP ≥ 12 mg/L criterion to the validation cohort.

"This work may influence [clinical practice](#) by relegating ESR as an admission blood test in acute presentations of UC," the authors write.

"Utilizing the CRP-based criteria will improve accessibility to the clinical information required for a complete assessment of the Truelove and Witts Criteria. This will enable a shorter turnaround time for critical decision making regarding patient disposition and management."

More information: Anthony Croft et al, Markers of systemic inflammation in acute attacks of ulcerative colitis: What level of C-reactive protein constitutes severe colitis?, *Journal of Crohn's and Colitis* (2022). [DOI: 10.1093/ecco-jcc/jjac014](https://doi.org/10.1093/ecco-jcc/jjac014)

One author disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

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