

Question 42 – May 25

Which of the following is true regarding the autoantibodies associated with autoimmune hepatitis (AIH)?

- A. Antibodies to LC-1 have emerged as possible prognostic markers.
- B. Most patients with type 2 AIH are adults.
- C. Anti-LKM1 are deemed more frequent in Japanese AIH patients.
- D. In pediatric populations (patients aged >18 years), titers are useful biomarkers of disease activity and can be used to monitor treatment response.

Answer: D

Antibodies to SLA have emerged as possible prognostic markers that may identify patients with severe AIH who are prone to relapse after corticosteroid withdrawal. Type 2 AIH is characterized by the presence of anti-LKM1 112 and/or anti-LC1 and/or anti-LKM-3. Most patients with type 2 AIH are children, and serum immunoglobulin levels are usually elevated except for the concentration of IgA, which may be reduced. Anti-LKM1 are deemed more frequent in European AIH patients and are typically unaccompanied by ANA or SMA. Finally, in pediatric populations (patients aged >18 years), titers are useful biomarkers of disease activity and can be used to monitor treatment response and thus this is the correct response.