

Interpretation Guide



Exagen®



		_	CID MISEL	SIE MO	nitor Progr	ostic ps	Starting Start   Associated Disease		
	Marker (method)	MISE	CHISEL	SLEMO	er blos	ostio aps Ause aps	Associated Disease	Sensitivity	Description
	EC4d (FC)	•	•	•			Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE)	46% <sup>1</sup>	Cell-bound complement activation products (CB-CAPs) EC4d & BC4d are measures of classical complement activation. CB-CAPs are primarily associated with SLE and 66% of
	BC4d (FC)	•					SLE	53% <sup>1</sup>	patients have EC4d and/or BC4d elevated.\(^1\) EC4d significantly correlates with fluctuations in SLE disease activity.\(^2\)
	TC4d (FC)	•					SLE	58% <sup>3</sup>	CB-CAPTC4d is a measure of classical complement activation. TC4d is positive in 58% of SLE patients and is also present in roughly 25% of SLE patients who test negative for EC4d and BC4d.
	TIgG (FC)						SLE	31% <sup>3</sup>	TIgG and TIgM autoantibody formation against T Cell antigens is common in SLE. 40% of
	TIgM (FC)						SLE	30% 3	SLE patients will test positive for one or both T Cell autoantibodies.
	C3 (IT)						SLE	33% 1	C3/C4 proteins are integral components of the complement system. Low C3/C4 levels
2	C4 (IT)						SLE	32% <sup>1</sup>	are associated with SLE and 44% of patients have one or both proteins abnormally low.
lated Marke	Anti-C1q lgG (ELISA)			•	•		Lupus Nephritis/ Active SLE	58% <sup>4</sup>	Antibodies against the complement protein C1q are found in 58% of SLE patients with active lupus nephritis. Anti-C1q levels are associated with renal activity. <sup>2</sup> However, low positive levels of anti-C1q have also been found in up to 8% of patients with other diseases, such as infection, and normal healthy individuals.
SLE ASSOCIATECI IN	Anti-dsDNA IgG (ELISA and IFA)	•	•				SLE	33% 1	Anti-dsDNA positivity provides a high positive predictive value due to the high specificity for SLE. In the AVISE Lupus algorithm, patients are first screened using an anti-dsDNA ELISA assay. Those who test positive are then confirmed with the Crithidia luciliae IFA assay, a more specific method for detecting clinically significant anti-dsDNA in SLE. Approximately 50% of anti-dsDNA ELISA results are confirmed with Crithidia luciliae.
	Anti-dsDNA (CIA)			•			SLE Disease Activity	46% <sup>5,6</sup>	The Chemiluminescent Immunoassay (CIA) method measures quantitative levels of anti-dsDNA, which significantly correlate with SLE disease activity. Due to its expanded dynamic range, CIA can detect very low levels of anti-dsDNA antibodies and correlates closely with the Farr assay.
	Anti-Nuclear Antibodies IgG (ANA) (ELISA and IFA)	•	•				Autoimmune Diseases	89% in SLE <sup>1</sup>	A positive ANA test suggests the presence of autoantibodies, which may indicate an autoimmune disorder like SLE. However, it is not specific to one autoimmune disease and can also be positive in healthy individuals. Further testing is typically required to confirm a diagnosis and determine the specific condition.
	Anti-Ribosomal P IgG (ELFA)				•		Neuropsychiatric Lupus	<b>9%</b> <sup>7</sup>	Antibodies against Ribosomal P are highly specific for SLE and can be present in anti-dsDNA or anti-Smith negative patients. Anti-Ribosomal P antibodies have been shown to associate with neuropsychiatric SLE manifestations.
	Anti-Smith IgG (ELFA)	•	•				SLE	14% ¹	Anti-Smith is highly specific for SLE, but has comparatively low sensitivity for the disease.
	Marker (method)						Associated Disease	Sensitivity	Description
	Anti-CENP IgG (ELFA)	•	•				CREST Syndrome	20-60% 8	Antibodies to CENP protein-B are found in 20-60% of patients with CREST syndrome, a limited form of systemic sclerosis.
	Anti-Jo-1 lgG (ELFA)	•	•				Polymyositis/ Dermatomyositis (PM/DM)	20-30% <sup>9</sup>	Antibodies against Jo-1 are highly specific for DM/PM and are present in 25% of DM/PM patients. DM/PM patients who are positive for anti-Jo-1 may have interstitial pneumonitis and tend to have a severe form of the disease with a tendency to relapse.
	Anti-RNP70 IgG (ELFA)	•					Mixed Connective Tissue Disease (MCTD)	90% 10	Anti-RNP70 antibodies specifically target the 70 kDa protein of the U1-snRNP complex and are present in 90% of MCTD patients. Unlike anti-U1RNP, anti-RNP70 is more specific for MCTD and occurs in only 12% of SLE patients.
I KEIS	Anti-Scl-70 lgG (ELFA)	•	•				Systemic Sclerosis	28-70% 11	Antibodies to Scl-70 are present in up to 70% of systemic sclerosis patients. Anti-Scl-70 is highly specific for diffuse cutaneous scleroderma and associates with interstitial lung disease (ILD).
EINA Markers	Anti-SSA/Ro52 IgG (ELFA)	•					Myositis, SLE, Sjögren's Disease & Systemic Sclerosis	20-70% 12	Anti-SSA/Ro52 antibodies are found in multiple autoimmune conditions. Anti-SSA/Ro52 has been shown to associate with ILD in patients with Sjögren's disease or systemic sclerosis.
	Anti-SSA/Ro60 IgG (ELFA)	•					SLE, Sjögren's Disease, Myositis & Systemic Sclerosis	20-65% 12	Anti-SSA/Ro60 antibodies are found in multiple autoimmune conditions. Anti-SSA/Ro60 is commonly found in both SLE and Sjögren's disease.
	Anti-RNA Pol III IgG (ELFA)	•					Systemic Sclerosis	5-22% <sup>13</sup>	Anti-RNA Pol III antibodies are present in up to 22% of patients with systemic sclerosis, particularly diffuse cutaneous scleroderma. Anti-RNA Pol III is often present in the absence of other systemic sclerosis antibodies including anti-Scl-70, anti-centromere, and anti-PM/Scl.
	Anti-SSB/La IgG (ELFA)	•	•				Sjögren's Disease	39% 1	Anti-SSB/La antibodies are highly specific for Sjögren's disease and are present in 39% of Sjögren's disease patients.



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	Marker (method)	VA.	VA.	511	5/1	BALL	121.	Associated Disease	Sensitivity	Description
arkers	Anti-U1RNP IgG (ELFA)	•						MCTD	95-99% <sup>10</sup>	Anti-U1RNP antibodies are highly sensitive for MCTD but are also present in 30-40% of SLE patients. The absence of anti-U1RNP antibodies is used to rule out MCTD.
<b>ENA Markers</b>	Anti-Histone IgG * (ELISA)							Drug-Induced Lupus (DIL)	95% <sup>14</sup>	Up to 95% of DIL and 50% of SLE patients exhibit elevated levels of histone antibodies. Histone antibodies have also been found in RA, DM, and Sjögren's disease placing added importance on clinical presentation.
	Marker (method)							Associated Disease	Sensitivity	Description
	Anti-Cyclic Citrullinated Peptide IgG (ELFA)	•	•					Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)	70-90% <sup>15</sup>	Antibodies to cyclic citrullinated peptides (CCP) aid in the diagnosis of RA. Anti-CCP antibodies are highly specific for RA.
ers	Anti-PAD4 IgA, IgG (ELISA)	•						RA	14%-50% <sup>18</sup>	Anti-PAD4 autoantibodies are highly specific (>95%) for RA against healthy individuals <sup>18</sup> . Together, IgA and IgG antibodies are observed in 50% of seropositive RA and 14% of seronegative RA. Anti-PAD4 can develop pre-clinically and are associated with a heightened risk for severe joint damage. <sup>16, 17</sup>
RA Markers	Anti-RA33 IgA, IgG, & IgM (ELFA)	•						RA	16-32% <sup>19</sup>	Anti-RA33 autoantibodies are highly specific (>95%) for RA against healthy individuals. Collectively, IgG, IgM, and IgA antibodies are present in 32% of seropositive RA patients and 16% of seronegative RA patients.
	Rheumatoid Factor IgA & IgM (ELFA)	•						RA	70-90% <sup>15</sup>	Rheumatoid factor (RF) antibodies are detected in 70%-90% of patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). The specificity for RA improves with higher RF titers and the presence of multiple positive isotypes, particularly IgM and IgA. The detection of the IgA isotype has been associated with a more severe disease prognosis.
	Anti-Carbamylated Protein (CarP) IgG * (ELISA)							RA	33% <sup>20</sup>	Antibodies to Carbamylated Proteins (CarP) serve as markers of more severe prognosis in RA, independent of anti-CCP or RF status. Studies have shown anti-CarP found in early RA associates with future erosive damage. The clinical significance of positive anti-CarP in the absence of RA has not been established.
	Marker (method)							Associated Disease	Sensitivity	Description
irs	Anti-β2- Gylcoprotein I IgA, IgG, & IgM ** (ELFA)	•			•	•		Antiphospholipid Syndrome (APS)	45% <sup>21</sup>	Antibodies to beta-2 glycoprotein 1 (B2 GP1) exhibit higher specificity than anticardiolipin. In 3-10% of APS patients, B2 GP1 antibodies may be the only positive test. Positive results should be confirmed after 12 weeks to ensure persistency of antibodies. IgA B2 GP1 antibodies are less common than IgG or IgM and can occur in isolation.
APS Markers	Anti-Cardiolipin IgA, IgG, & IgM ** (ELFA)	•			•	•		APS	97% 22	Antibodies to cardiolipin are present in SLE patients (30-40%) and APS. The prevalence of anti-cardiolipin in APS is high, but the specificity is lower than other anti-phospholipid antibodies. Positive results should be confirmed after 12 weeks.
•	Anti- Phosphatidylserine /Prothrombin (PS/PT) IgG & IgM (ELISA)				•	•		APS	22-37% <sup>23</sup>	Antibodies to PS/PT are markers for APS that have been found to significantly correlate with lupus anticoagulant (LAC). <sup>20</sup> Unlike LAC, anti-PS/PT testing is unaffected by anti-coagulant therapy.
5	Marker (method)							Associated Disease	Sensitivity	Description
Marke	Anti-Thyroglobulin IgG (ELFA)	•						Hashimoto's Thyroiditis & Graves' Disease	60-85% <sup>24</sup>	Anti-thyroglobulin antibodies are found in 60-85% of patients with Hashimoto's thyroiditis and 30-80% of patients with Graves' disease.
Thyroid Markers	Anti-Thyroid Peroxidase IgG (ELFA)	•						Hashimoto's Thyroiditis & Graves' Disease	71-97% <sup>24</sup>	Anti-thyroid peroxidase antibodies are found in > 90% of patients with Hashimoto's thyroiditis & 71-97% of patients with Graves' disease. Over 95% of thyroiditis patients have thyroglobulin IgG and/or thyroid peroxidase antibodies.
	Marker (method)							Associated Disease	Sensitivity	Description
	ANCA (IFA)						•	ANCA-Associated Vasculitis	77% <sup>25</sup>	The c-ANCA pattern produces a granular cytoplasmic pattern with interlobular accentuation on ethanol fixed neutrophils. c-ANCA patterns are associated with necrotizing segmental glomerulonephritis and GPA. <sup>25,26</sup>
kers	(II <i>M</i> )							vascuiitis	85% <sup>25</sup>	The p-ANCA pattern produces perinuclear staining with or without nuclear extension. The p-ANCA pattern is commonly detected in patients with MPA and about 40% of patients with Eosinophilic Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis (EGPA). 26,27
Vasculitis Markers	Anti-PR3 IgG (CIA)						•	Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis (GPA)	81% <sup>25</sup>	Anti-PR3 antibodies are primarily associated with GPA and to a lesser extent, found in MPA (10%) and EGPA. <sup>25,29</sup> However, anti-PR3 antibodies can also be seen in connective tissue disease, IBD, some infections, malignancy, and as a reaction to drugs. Therefore, results should be interpreted with care in light of the clinical findings and workup. <sup>28</sup>
Vas	Anti-MPO IgG (CIA)						•	Microscopic Polyangiitis (MPA)	85% <sup>25</sup>	Anti-MPO antibodies are primarily associated with MPA and to a lesser extent, found in GPA (6%) and EGPA. <sup>25,29</sup> However, anti-MPO antibodies can also be seen in connective tissue disease, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), some infections, malignancy, and as a reaction to drugs. Therefore, results should be interpreted with care in light of the clinical findings and workup. <sup>28</sup>
	Anti-GBM IgG (CIA)						•	Goodpasture's Syndrome (GPS)	96% <sup>29</sup>	Anti-GBM antibodies are often associated with Goodpasture's disease and anti-GBM nephritis. <sup>29</sup> A significant proportion of patients with anti-GBM disease are also positive for ANCA.

<sup>\*</sup> Available as a stand alone test order. \*\* IgA antibodies only available in AVISE APS and SLE Prognostic test orders.



#### **AVISE HCQ**

A test to aid in assessing adherence to HCQ and individual exposure to HCQ as measured in whole blood.

HCQ Level	Interpretation & Consideration
Supratherapeutic (>1200 ng/mL)	Level associated with clinical efficacy. HCQ is likely absorbed effectively. However, levels >1200 ng/ml have a minimal added benefit compared to levels in the therapeutic range (750 ng/ml - 1200 ng/ml). Thus, adjusting HCQ doses to maintain blood levels in the therapeutic range may maximize efficacy while limiting toxicity.
Therapeutic (750-1200 ng/mL)	Levels associated with clinical efficacy. HCQ is likely to be absorbed effectively.
Subtherapeutic (200-<750 ng/mL)	Patient may be partially adherent to therapy. Patients with HCQ < 750 ng/mL can be at greater risk for disease flare. Thus, adjusting HCQ doses and/or discussing barriers to compliance may maximize efficacy.
Underexposed (<200 ng/mL)	Patient is likely non-adherent to HCQ therapy.

#### **AVISE MTX**

A test to aid in assessing adherence to MTX and individual exposure to active MTX metabolites in red blood cells.

MTXPG Level	Interpretation & Consideration
Therapeutic (>60 nmol/L)	Patient is metabolizing MTX effectively. Level is consistent with clinical efficacy.
Intermediate (20-60 nmol/L)	Patient may need more exposure to MTX.
Sub-therapeutic (<20 nmol/L)	Patient may not be metabolizing MTX effectively or patient may be non-adherent with therapy.

#### **Methodology Definitions:**

FC: Flow Cytometry ELISA: Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay

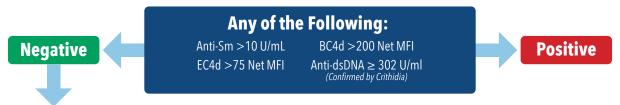
**IFA:** Immunofluorescence Assay **ELFA:** Enzyme-Linked Fluorescence Assay

IT: Immunoturbidimetry CIA: Chemiluminescent Immunoassay

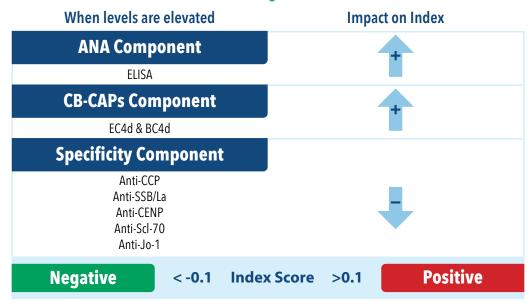
## A deeper look at the AVISE® Lupus two-tier algorithm

The AVISE CTD two-tier algorithm is a proprietary diagnostic method used to assess the patient's likelihood of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). This is done by deriving an index score from the calculation of ANA, highly specific lupus markers (anti-Smith, anti-dsDNA, BC4d and EC4d), and other disease specific autoantibodies.

## **TIER 1** - Tier 1 criteria is highly specific for SLE



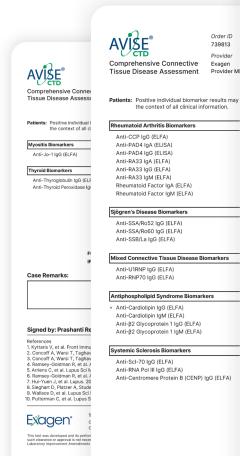
## TIER 2 - If Tier 1 is Negative move to Tier 2



Tier 2 generates an index value based on the following components

- ANA component
- CB-CAPs component
- Autoantibody specificity component

## **AVISE® CTD results report**



AVISE®	Order ID 739813 Provider	Specimen Collected 07/21/2025	Test Order Created 07/22/2025	Patient Gender Female	Sample, Susan S.
Comprehensive Connective	Exagen	Received	Reported	MRN	DOB
Tissue Disease Assessment	Provider MD	07/22/2025	07/24/2025	AB123450	01/01/1996

Negative			In	determin	ate		Positive	Tier 1 Positive
-5 -4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	1

INDEX INTERPRETATION: Tier 1 positive results are associated with an increased likelihood of SLE and are greater than 96% specific for SLE against other autoimmune CTDs. These results are driven by elevated markers that are highly specific for SLE (anti-dsDNA, anti-smith, and/or strong positive ECd4/BC44). Results should be interpreted by a provider conjunction with all available clinical findings.

Lupus Index Score Biomarkers	Value	Interpretation	Reference Range
+ Anti-dsDNA IgG (ELISA)	865.61 IU/mL	POSITIVE	<201 - Negative I 201-<302 - Equivocal I ≥302 - Positive
Confirmation by Crithidia luciliae (IFA)		Positive anti-dsDNA co	nfirmed by Crithidia
Anti-Smith IgG (ELFA)	1.2 U/mL	Negative	<7 - Negative I 7-10 - Equivocal I >10 - Positive
+ CB-CAP: EC4d - Erythrocyte-bound C4d (FC)	18 Net MFI	POSITIVE	<15 - Negative I 15-75 - Positive I >75 - Strong Positive
CB-CAP: BC4d - B-lymphocyte-bound C4d (FC)	52 Net MFI	Negative	<61 - Negative I 61-200 - Positive I >200 - Strong Positive
++ANA IgG (ELISA)	120.88 Units	STRONG POSITIVE	<20 - Negative I 20-<60 - Positive I ≥60 - Strong Positive
Anti-SSB/La IgG (ELFA)	1.7 U/mL	Negative	<7 - Negative I 7-10 - Equivocal I >10 - Positive
Anti-ScI-70 IgG (ELFA)	0.8 U/mL	Negative	<7 - Negative I 7-10 - Equivocal I >10 - Positive
Anti-Centromere Protein B (CENP) IgG (ELFA)	1.0 U/mL	Negative	<7 - Negative I 7-10 - Equivocal I >10 - Positive
Anti-Jo-1 IgG (ELFA)	<0.3 U/mL	Negative	<7 - Negative I 7-10 - Equivocal I >10 - Positive
Anti-CCP IgG (ELFA)	1.4 U/mL	Negative	<7 - Negative I 7-10 - Equivocal I >10 - Positive

T Cell Biomarkers	Value	Interpretation	Reference Range	
+ CB-CAP: TC4d (FC)	215 Net MFI	POSITIVE	<200 - Negative I ≥200 - Positive	
+ T Cell autoantibody: TlgG (FC)	190 Net MFI	POSITIVE	<170 - Negative I ≥170 - Positive	
+ T Cell autoantibody: TIgM (FC)	250 Net MFI	POSITIVE	<230 - Negative I ≥230 - Positive	
ANA (Immunofluorescence)	Value	Interpretation	Reference Range	
+ ANA by HEp-2 (IFA)	Titer: 1:640	POSITIVE	<1:80 - Negative I ≥1:80 - Positive	

Nuclear Pattern: Homogeneous Cytoplasmic Pattern: Not Observed

- Comments:

   ECdd and TCdd are markers of classical complement activation with greater than 95% specificity against healthy individuals. In the positive range, ECdd is present in 45% of SLE patients and in low percentages of patients with Siggeris disease, myositis, systemic sclerosis, RA, APS, and vasculitis, ECdd correlates with SLE disease activity. When positive, TCdd is observed in 58% of SLE patients. It is also present in 28% of Siggerns' disease, 13% of spondyloarthropathies, 13% of PSA, and S% of RA patients. [Kyttard et al. 2025]. A positive result alone does not establish a diagnosis. Results must be pretreted by a healthcare provider in the context of all available clinical findings.
- context of all available clinical findings.

  TigG and TigM autoantibodies are 95% specific against healthy individuals. When positive, TigG is observed in 31% of SLE patients. It is also present in 10% of Sjögren's disease and 10% of RA patients. When positive, TigM is observed in 30% of SLE patients. It is also present in 14% of Sjögren's disease, 4% of PsA, 7% of Iformynalgia, and 6% of RA patients. Additionally, TigM is elevated in up to 21% of patients exposed to COVID-19, though levels typically do not persist beyond six months in mild (non-hospitalized) cases. (Ryttaris et al. 2025 and Perez-Diez et al. 2024). A positive result alone does not establish a diagnosis. Results must be interpreted by a healthcare provider in the context of all available clinical findings.

In a study of 794 subjects comprising 304 SLE patients, 285 patients with other rheumatic diseases and 205 normal healthy controls, positivity for Tier 1 markers (anti-dsDNA by ELSA, confirmed with Critidia by IFA, anti-Sm by Enzyme Linkcel Flourescent Immunossays (ELFA) or elevated EC4d and BC4d by Flow Cytometry yelded a sensitivity of 48% and a specificity of 97% for SLE vs. other autoimnume rheumatic classess (RDR), Among the fold SLE subjects negative in Tier 1, a positive indices zone composite of ANA by ELCAdBC4d and positivity for anti-CDC, SEL (SLE), CRIP, Jo-1 or ScI-70 (by ELFA) resulted in sensitivity of 62% for SLE and specificity of 89% for SLE vs. ORD. The overall two-tier algorithm result yielded 80% sensitivity for SLE and 88% specificity or SLE vs. healthy individuals).

## Lupus index and interpretation

The AVISE Lupus algorithm and its interpretation turn isolated data points into meaningful



information to help rule in/out	•
AVISE Lupus Result: Tier 1 Positive	NATURE AND THE STATE OF THE STA

	esult: Tier 1 Positive		
Negative -5 -4 -3 -	Indeterminate	Positive Tier 1 Positive	INDEX INTERPRETATION: Tier 1 positive results are a increased likelihood of SLE and are greater than 564 against other autoimmune CTDs. These results are an markers that are highly specific for SLE [anti-dSDM, strong positive EC4d/9C4d). Results should be interpret conjunction with all available clinical findings.

RA33 autoantibodies are highly specific (>95%) for RA against healthy IgM, and IgA RA33 autoantibodies were collectively present in 32% of

## **T Cell lupus biomarkers**

The newly available T Cell biomarkers provide unique and unmatched diagnostic accuracy to further substantiate an SLE diagnosis when conventional markers are negative.



T Cell Biomarkers	Value	Interpretation	Reference Range
+ CB-CAP: TC4d (FC)	215 Net MFI	POSITIVE	<200 - Negative I ≥200 - Positive
+ T Cell autoantibody: TlgG (FC)	190 Net MFI	POSITIVE	<170 - Negative I ≥170 - Positive
+ T Cell autoantibody: TlqM (FC)	250 Net MFI	POSITIVE	<230 - Negative I ≥230 - Positive

## **Cell-Bound Complement Activation Products (CB-CAPs)**

AVISE CTD incorporates CB-CAPs biomarkers, which offer higher sensitivity for diagnosing SLE than many conventional biomarkers including C3/C4 levels.



16	upus Index Score Biomarkers	Value Interpretation		Reference Range	
+	CB-CAP: EC4d - Erythrocyte-bound C4d (FC) CB-CAP: BC4d - B-lymphocyte-bound C4d (FC)	18 Net MFI 52 Net MFI		<15 - Negative I 15-75 - Positive I > 75 - Street I < 61 - Negative I 61-200 - Positive I > 200 - Street I < 61 - Negative I 61-200 - Positive I > 200 - Street I < 61 - Negative I	
+	CB-CAP: TC4d (FC)	215 Net MFI		<200 - Negative I ≥200 - Positive	

## Rheumatoid arthritis biomarkers

The addition of new highly specific RA biomarkers, including anti-RA33 and anti-PAD4, aids in the early diagnosis of seronegative RA patients.



heumatoid Arthritis Biomarkers	Value	Interpretation	Reference Range
Anti-CCP IgG (ELFA)	1.4 U/mL	Negative	<7 - Negative I 7-10 - Equivocal >10 - Positive
Anti-PAD4 IgA (ELISA)	2.1 U/mL	Negative	<25 - NegativeI ≥25 - Positive
Anti-PAD4 IgG (ELISA)	1.1 U/mL	Negative	<13 - Negative I ≥13 - Positive
Anti-RA33 IgA (ELFA)	0.6 U/mL	Negative	<5 - Negative I ≥5 - Positive
Anti-RA33 IgG (ELFA)	1.8 U/mL	Negative	<8 - Negative I ≥8 - Positive
Anti-RA33 IgM (ELFA)	0.9 U/mL	Negative	<42 - Negative I ≥42 - Positive
Rheumatoid Factor IgA (ELFA)	1.3 U/mL	Negative	<14 - Negative I 14-20 - Equivocal I > 20 - Posto
Rheumatoid Factor IgM (ELFA)	<1.1 U/mL	Negative	<3.5 - Negative I 3.5-5 - Equivocal I >5 - Positive



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