

Associated and overlapping autoimmune diseases

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Associated and overlapping diseases

Associated diseases are diseases that occur more often together in the same person than by chance. Overlapping diseases have common symptoms and/or signs and may be associated or not. For some overlapping diseases, such as sarcoidosis, there is no indication at all of an association or any other relationship than by chance (see box). This chapter is limited to associated diseases of which some may overlap with Sjögren's syndrome (table 18.1).

Table 18.1 Sjögren's syndrome: overlapping and associated autoimmune diseases

disease	percentage	
	in Sjös	with Sjös
rheumatoid arthritis	1-2	33
SLE		33
systemic sclerosis		33
MCTD		
antiphospholipid syndrome		
SCLE		
PBC		
Graves' disease		
Hashimoto's disease		
autoimmune hepatitis		
celiac disease		
myositis		
autoimmune pancreatitis		
primary sclerosing cholangitis		
atrophic gastritis		
pernicious anemia		
IC/BPS		
nonbacterial prostatitis		

Sjös: Sjögren's syndrome; SLE: systemic lupus erythematosus; SCLE: subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus; MCTD: mixed connective tissue disease; PBC: primary biliary cirrhosis; IC/BPS: interstitial cystitis/bladder pain syndrome

Non-associated overlapping diseases

Overlapping features between Sjögren's syndrome and sarcoidosis may be enlargement of the salivary and tear glands, sicca symptoms, fatigue, fever, arthralgia, rthritis, leukocytopenia, ANA and rheumatoid factor.

Some features only show superficial overlap as they can be clearly distinguished by further examination. The infiltration of salivary and tear glands in sarcoidosis is diffuse while in Sjögren's syndrome it is situated around the ducts.

Associated systemic diseases

Associated systemic diseases are systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), rheumatoid arthritis (RA), mixed connective tissue disease (MCTD) and systemic sclerosis. Sjögren's syndrome has overlapping features most clearly with SLE. In some patients it may be difficult or impossible to decide whether they have Sjögren's syndrome, SLE or both. In addition to the association in individual patients, associated diseases also occur more often in family members, with or without Sjögren's syndrome.

Associated organ specific disease

Examples of associated organ specific diseases are Graves' disease, Hashimoto's disease, primary biliary cirrhosis, subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus (SCLE) and interstitial cystitis/bladder pain syndrome (table 18.1). Because of their organ specific nature, overlap of symptoms is rare and if present mainly concerns laboratory findings such as antinuclear antibodies (ANA). Of the associated organ specific diseases, the overlap of Sjögren's syndrome is most clearly with SCLE because of skin photosensitivity and antibodies to SSA/Ro and SSB/La.

Associated overlapping autoimmune diseases

In this section a description will be given of the way the associated diseases show overlapping features with

Sjögren's syndrome.

Rheumatoid arthritis
Systemic lupus erythematosus
Systemic sclerosis
Mixed connective tissue disease
Antiphospholipid syndrome
Subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus
Primary biliary cirrhosis
Graves' disease
Hashimoto disease
Autoimmune hepatitis
Celiac disease
Myositis
Autoimmune pancreatitis
Sclerosing cholangitis
Atrophic gastritis
Pernicious anemia
Interstitial cystitis/bladder pain syndrome
Nonbacterial prostatitis

this chapter is under construction