**Title: UTILITY OF PERIPHERAL BLOOD IMMUNE SUBSETS IN THE EVALUATION OF LUPUS NEPHRITIS**

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**Introduction:** Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a systemic autoimmune disease characterized by generation of autoantibodies leading to multiorgan dysfunction, particularly the kidneys. The role of specific immune cells in predicting the activity of lupus nephritis (LN) and outcomes is a critical area of research. Various immune cell subsets, including T cells, B cells, dendritic cells, and others, are implicated in the pathogenesis of LN.

**Objectives:** To study the association of the peripheral blood immune subsets with severity of LN and with autoimmune serology

**Methods:** A retrospective study of 4 years (May 2021 to April 2024) was performed after ethical clearance including all cases with established diagnosis of SLE who have undergone autoimmune serology, renal biopsy and immune subset evaluation at diagnosis after excluding cases with pre-existing immune deficiency disorders and malignancy. Appropriate statistical analysis was performed.

**Conclusions:** A total of twenty-eight patients of LN were identified. The mean age of the patients was 32.3 ± 16.6 years with female: male ratio of 8.3:1. Patients with Class 3, 4 and 5 LN had a significantly lower CD3, CD4 and CD8 counts. Class 4+5 LN had strong associations with CD3+, CD4+ and CD8 + T cells. The involvement of these T cell subsets suggests their significant role in the inflammatory process of LN. Anti-Cardiolipin Antibodies show significant associations with CD3+, CD4+ and CD8 + cell counts, suggesting these immune markers could have a potential role in the pathogenesis or activity monitoring of LN.

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