

## Allergy-immunology glossary

**Zeinab A. El-Sayed**

*Professor of Pediatrics, Ain Shams University*

*Towards a clear designation of some of the terms used in allergology and immunology.*

<b>Antiperinuclear factor (APF)</b>	APF is an antibody, mostly of the IgG type, directed against a protein in the cytoplasm of the buccal mucosa cells. These antibodies are found in 48 to 86% of serum samples and synovial fluids from patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA). They are highly specific for RA and correlate with disease severity and this is most clearly seen in patients without rheumatoid factor <sup>1</sup> .	العامل المحيط بالنواة <sup>٢</sup>
<b>Antikeratin antibodies (AKA)</b>	AKA antibodies specifically present in RA sera are determined by indirect immunofluorescence (IIF) on cryosections of rat esophagus. They are predominantly of the IgG class and can also be found in the synovial fluid. The sensitivity of the AKA test varies between 36 and 59%, with a specificity between 88 and 99% <sup>3</sup> . AKA is not routinely tested for because of the inconvenient antigenic substrate and the use of IIF that is regarded as a problem in a routine laboratory setting <sup>4</sup> .	الاجسام المضادة للكيراتين <sup>٢</sup>
<b>Anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide (anti-CCP)</b>	These antibodies are highly specific and predictive for RA, they can be detected years before onset, and are associated with joint destruction. The presence or absence of these antibodies seems to be a stable trait. Anti-CCP antibodies are detected in seropositive as well as in sero-negative RA patients. The sensitivity and specificity of anti-CCP reactivity for the diagnosis RA are 50% and 100% respectively <sup>5</sup> .	الاجسام المضادة للبيتيد ذو السيترولين الحلقى

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