

## Autoantibodies in chronic pulmonary tuberculosis ★

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### Abstract

Sera from patients with chronic pulmonary tuberculosis have been examined for abnormal antibody activity. A very high frequency of several autoantibodies was discovered. The incidence of 46.6 per cent for antinuclear factor did not seem to bear an absolute relationship to drug therapy or disease duration. Rheumatoid factor activity, and a factor responsible for a peritubular staining pattern in the immunofluorescent test with mouse kidney were also present. It is suggested that factors besides drugs, such as tissue breakdown, chronicity, and adjuvant effect of mycobacteria may play a role in this anti-tissue antibody production in tuberculosis.