**Original article
Evaluation of platelet morphology and C-reactive protein in patients of systemic lupus erythematosus attending dermatology outpatient department ( OPD ) of a rural hospital in south India**

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**Abstract**

**Background:** Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune connective tissue disorder with periods of remission and relapses. The complexity of clinical presentation of the SLE patients leads to incorrect evaluation of disease activity. Mean platelet volume (MPV) has been studied as a simple inflammatory marker in several diseases. There are very few studies in the literature about platelet count and MPV levels in adult SLE patients. We aimed to evaluate the platelet count, C reactive protein in SLE patients with cutaneous malar rash during and between the active phase.

**Methods:** The study consisted of 40 SLE patients in active disease and 40 healthy controls who were evaluated for erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), C reactive protein (CRP), platelet count, and mean platelet volume (MPV)

**Results:** Theplatelet count andMPV were significantly lower (p<0.001) in patient group than in controls. The inflammatory markers ESR and CRP were significantly higher in patient group.

**Conclusions:** Along with conventional inflammatory markers like elevated CRP and ESR, the platelet count and MPV can be considered as markers of inflammation and disease activation in patients of SLE .

**Key words:** Systemic lupus erythematosus, C-reactive protein, Mean platelet volume