

Dermatoglyphics-Quantitative Analysis in Rheumatoid Arthritis

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ABSTRACT Various studies have shown dermatoglyphics as a possible marker and a tool to detect Rheumatoid arthritis. In the present study, quantitative, dermatoglyphic features comprising of 'total finger ridge count', absolute finger ridge count' and 'a-b ridge count' was done on 11 males and 25 females in both hands and compared with equal number of controls. A trend towards significance was observed in right hand of male patients with respect to 'Total finger ridge count' (Patient 56.09 ± 26.22 , Control 35.36 ± 8.9 , $p = 0.0873$, $n = 11$). On the other hand, female patients showed significance for the right hand for 'Absolute finger ridge count (Patient = 99 ± 43.75 , Control 93.5 ± 42.05 , $p = 0.0358$, $n = 22$) and in the left hand for the male patients (Patient = 94.27 ± 37.58 , Control = 94.27 ± 28.56 , $p = 0.0358$, $n = 11$). Significant values were found in the in left hand for female (Patient 39.2 ± 6.85 , Control 38.08 ± 5.07 , $p = 0.0437$, $n = 11$) and right hand of male patients for 'a-b ridge count' (Patient = 73.64 ± 20.32 , Control 38.64 ± 4.10 , $p = 0.0002$, $n = 11$). The observations of the present study, has suggested, that 'a-d' ridge count could be considered as marker for male as well as female patients as the diagnostic tool in linking the rheumatoid arthritis to dermatoglyphics. Further studies are needed on a large scale to confirm.