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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACA : American College of Rheumatology.

ACTH : Adrenocorticotrohic Hormones.

ANAs : Anti Nuclear antibodies.

APCs : Antigen presenting cells.

B cell : B lymphocyte.

CASI : Chronic arthritis systemic index.

CBC : Complete Blood Count.

CRP : C.Reactive Protein.

CSFs : Colony-Stimulating factors.

CT : Computerized axial tomography.

DAS : Disease Activity score

DIP : Distal Interphalangeal.

DMARDs : Disease Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drugs.

EBV : Epstein-Barr virus.

ESR : Erythrocyte- Sedimentation Rate.

Hb : Hemoglobin.

HIV : Human Immunodeficiency Virus.

HLA : Human Leukocytic Antigen.

G-CSF : Granulocyte Colony-Stimulating factor.

GM-CSF : Granulocyte Macrophage Colony-Stimulating factor.

FDA : Food and Drug Administration.

Ig G :Immunoglobulin.

IL-1 : Interleukin -1.

MCP : Metacapophalangeal.

M-CSF : Macrophage Colony-Stimulating factor.

mg : Milligram.

MRI : Magnetic resonance Imaging.

MTP : Metatarsophalangeal.

MTX : Methotrexate.

NSAIDs : Nonsteroidal ant-inflammatory drugs.

PIP : Proximal Interphalangeal

PMNL : Polymorphnuclear Leukocytes.

RA : Rheumatoid arthritis.

RAI : Ritchie,s articular index.

RF : Rheumatoid Factor.

SLE : Systemic lupus Erythemtosus.

TAI : Thomposon,s articular index.

T cell : T lymphocyte.

TNF $\alpha$ : Tumour –necrosis factor  $\alpha$ .

VAS :Visual Analogue Scale.