

- 6- There was a highly significant difference as regard anti-CCP antibodies titre in RA patients graded according to functional capacity being higher in higher grades.
- 7- There was a highly significant difference as regard anti-CCP antibodies titre in RA patients graded according to their disease activity being higher in higher grades.
- 8- There was a highly significant difference as regard anti-CCP antibodies titre in RA patients graded according to their radiological severity being higher in higher grades.
- 9- Anti-CCP antibodies showed a higher diagnostic specificity (95%) and a lower diagnostic sensitivity (76.7%) than the RF the diagnostic specificity was greatest where tests for anti-CCP and RF were found positive in combination (97.5 %). Also, higher positive and lower negative predictive values were found when both tests detected in combination (97.4 %, 63.9 %) respectively.
- 10- There were a highly significant positive correlation with age, disease duration, morning stiffness, A.I, VAS, MDGA, ESR, RF titre and negative correlation with the grip strength. Also, there was a significant negative correlation with the Hb % in RA

Summary and Conclusion patients.

From this study, our data suggest that anti-CCP antibodies are highly specific markers for rheumatoid arthritis. The presence of RF

and anti-CCP antibodies strongly indicates RA. Furthermore, this study provides good evidence for associations of anti-CCP antibodies with a more severe and active form of the disease and considering these antibodies as a good prediction of radiological joint damage and progression. This set of diagnostic and prognostic markers would allow the clinician to choose a more powerful disease modifying antirheumatic drug early in the course of disease, even when clinical judgment might not yet indicate the need for such drugs.