

Table1. Characteristics of study populations

	SLEdsDNA+ (n=70)	SLEdsDNA- (n=27)	RA(n=26)	Non-SLE OAD(n=23)	Healthy controls (n=50)	<i>p</i> value
Sex(Females/males)	65/5	24/3	19/7	18/5	40/10	0.083
positive IgG ANAs (%)	100%(70/70)	100%(27/27)	53.85%(14/26)	78.26%(18/23)	2%(1/50)	<0.001 <sup>a</sup>
positive HA IgG ANA (%)	81.43%(57/70)	59.26%(16/27)	23.08%(6/26)	39.13(9/23)	0	<0.001 <sup>a</sup>
	P <sub>50</sub> (P <sub>25</sub> -P <sub>75</sub> )	P <sub>50</sub> (P <sub>25</sub> -P <sub>75</sub> )	P <sub>50</sub> (P <sub>25</sub> -P <sub>75</sub> )	P <sub>50</sub> (P <sub>25</sub> -P <sub>75</sub> )	P <sub>50</sub> (P <sub>25</sub> -P <sub>75</sub> )	
Age(years)	35(27-45)	33(27-43)	31.5(27-41.5)	36(29-46)	31(25-42)	0.576
SLEDAI score	14(10-18)	10(4-12)	ND	ND	ND	<0.001 <sup>b</sup>
CXCL13(pg/ml) <sup>c</sup>	487.70(266.94-928.74)	213.95(43.49-475.37)	98.49(39.07-249.05)	246.73(117.04-451.56)	0.045(0.01-15.17)	<0.001 <sup>b</sup>
dsDNA Ab(U/I)	1093.37(448.21-2215.30)	10(10-10)	10(10-10)	10(10-10)	ND	<0.001 <sup>b</sup>
C3(g/L) <sup>d</sup>	0.54(0.34-0.77)	0.87(0.65-1.12)	1.1(1.01-1.37)	0.99(0.87-1.18)	ND	<0.001 <sup>b</sup>
C4(g/L) <sup>e</sup>	0.09(0.04-0.12)	0.22(0.13-0.3)	0.24(0.18-0.30)	0.21(0.15-0.30)	ND	<0.001 <sup>b</sup>
ESR <sup>f</sup>	25.45(18.13-54.48)	18.0(8.8-28.7)	32.75(18.35-77.2)	16.3(10.1-24.6)	ND	<0.001 <sup>b</sup>

Characteristics of the study populations were shown in Table1. SLE dsDNA+: systemic lupus erythematosus and the serum level of dsDNA IgG was higher than 100U/I; SLE dsDNA-: systemic lupus erythematosus but the serum level of dsDNA IgG was lower than 100U/I; RA: rheumatoid arthritis; OAD: other autoimmune diseases; HA IgG ANA: high-avidity antinuclear antibody (ANA) of the IgG isotype; ND: not detected.

<sup>a</sup>Data was compared to different groups, the difference was statistically significant. The chi-squared test or Fisher's exact test were used.

<sup>b</sup>Data was compared to different groups, the difference was statistically significant. The Kruskal-Wallis H test were used.

<sup>c</sup>SLE dsDNA+ versus healthy controls,  $p < 0.001$ ; SLE dsDNA+ versus SLE dsDNA-,  $P = 0.004$ ; SLE dsDNA+ versus RA,  $p < 0.001$ ; SLE dsDNA+ versus OAD,  $p = 0.002$ ;

SLE dsDNA- versus healthy controls,  $p < 0.001$ ; SLE dsDNA- versus RA,  $p = 0.135$ ; SLE dsDNA- versus OAD,  $p = 0.830$ ; RA versus healthy controls,  $p < 0.001$ ; OAD versus healthy controls,  $p < 0.001$ ; RA versus OAD,  $p = 0.064$ .

<sup>d</sup>SLE dsDNA+ versus SLE dsDNA-,  $p < 0.001$ ; SLE dsDNA+ versus RA,  $p < 0.001$ ; SLE dsDNA+ versus OAD,  $p < 0.001$ ; -SLE dsDNA- versus RA,  $p = 0.002$ ; SLE dsDNA- versus OAD,  $p = 0.147$ ; RA versus OAD,  $p = 0.043$ .

<sup>e</sup>SLE dsDNA+ versus SLE dsDNA-,  $p < 0.001$ ; SLE dsDNA+ versus RA,  $p < 0.001$ ; SLE dsDNA+ versus OAD,  $p < 0.001$ ; -SLE dsDNA- versus RA,  $p = 0.487$ ; SLE dsDNA- versus OAD,  $p = 0.838$ ; RA versus OAD,  $p = 0.568$ .

<sup>f</sup>**SLE dsDNA+ versus SLE dsDNA-,  $p = 0.003$** ; SLE dsDNA+ versus RA,  $p = 0.322$ ; **SLE dsDNA+ versus OAD,  $p < 0.001$** ; -SLE dsDNA- versus RA,  $p = 0.006$ ; SLE dsDNA- versus OAD,  $p = 0.793$ ; RA versus OAD,  $p = 0.001$ .