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- 10 RA Symptoms to Never Ignore
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Antinuclear Antibodies (ANA)

Risks

Blood test

There is very little chance of a problem from having a blood sample taken from a vein.

- You may get a small bruise at the site. You can lower the chance of bruising by keeping pressure on the site for several minutes.
- In rare cases, the vein may become swollen after the blood sample is taken. This problem is called phlebitis. A warm compress can be used several times a day to treat this.
- Ongoing bleeding can be a problem for people with bleeding disorders. Aspirin, warfarin (Coumadin), and other blood-thinning medicines can make bleeding more likely. If you have bleeding or clotting problems, or if you take blood-thinning medicine, tell your doctor before your blood sample is taken.

Results

An antinuclear antibody (ANA) test measures the amount and pattern of antibodies in your blood that work against your own body (autoimmune reaction). If there are more antibodies in the blood than normal, the test is positive. When the test is positive, most labs do other tests right away to look for the cause. These tests can find out which antibodies are in the blood in higher amounts than normal.

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Positive test

A positive ANA test may be caused by:

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Psoriatic Arthritis
Is there a cure?



Food Dos and Don'ts
11 tips to tame inflammation.



When Your RA Flares
Tips to get relief.



9 Things That Make Your Feet Hurt
Do you have one of these common foot problems?

Check out an RA treatment that is proven to help stop the progression of joint damage.

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QUIZ
Psoriatic Arthritis Facts



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10 Serious Symptoms of RA



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10 Things to Know About Physical Therapy



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- Autoimmune connective tissue diseases. Examples include:
 - **Rheumatoid arthritis.** More than one-third of people with rheumatoid arthritis have a positive ANA test.
 - **Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).** Almost all people with SLE have a positive ANA test. But most people with a positive ANA test do not have SLE.
 - **Scleroderma.**
 - **Sjögren's syndrome.**
 - **Juvenile idiopathic arthritis.**
 - **Polymyositis.**
 - **Raynaud's syndrome.**
- Autoimmune diseases of other organs. Examples include:
 - **Addison's disease.**
 - Diseases of the blood cells, such as **vitamin B12 deficiency**, **idiopathic thrombocytopenia (ITP)**, and **hemolytic anemia.**
 - **Liver disease**, such as **hepatitis.**
 - **Thyroid disease**, such as **Hashimoto's thyroiditis.**
- Medicines, such as those used to treat **high blood pressure**, **heart disease**, and **tuberculosis (TB).**
- **Viral infections.**

What Affects the Test

Reasons you may not be able to have the test or why the results may not be helpful include:

- Taking medicine. Many medicines can change the results of this test. Be sure to tell your doctor about all the nonprescription and prescription medicines you take.
- A virus. Viral illness can cause an ANA to be positive, and later turn back to normal.

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- [Giant Cell Arteritis-FAQs](#)
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