

Enter search term here

Search

[Diseases and Conditions](#)

[Symptoms](#)

[Drugs and Supplements](#)

[Tests and Procedures](#)

[Healthy Lifestyle](#)

[First Aid](#)

ANA test

Text Size:

[Basics](#)

[In-Depth](#)

[Resources](#)

Advertisement

Share on:

[Print](#) [Reprints](#)

Definition

[Why it's done](#)

[How you prepare](#)

[What you can expect](#)

[Results](#)

Definition

By Mayo Clinic staff

An ANA test detects antinuclear antibodies in your blood. Your immune system normally makes antibodies to help you fight infection. In contrast, antinuclear antibodies often attack your body's own tissues — specifically targeting each cell's nucleus.

In most cases, a positive ANA test indicates that your immune system has launched a misdirected attack on your own tissue — in other words, an autoimmune reaction. But some people have positive ANA tests even when they're healthy.

Your doctor may order an ANA test if he or she suspects you have an autoimmune disease such as lupus, rheumatoid arthritis or scleroderma.

[Why it's done](#)

Share stories. Learn.
[Join Mayo Clinic's online community.](#)

Mayo Clinic Store

Check out these best-sellers and special offers on books and newsletters from Mayo Clinic.

[The Mayo Clinic Diet — Eat well. Enjoy life. Lose weight.](#)

[Control high blood pressure with a three-step action plan](#)

[Mayo Clinic Book of Alternative Medicine](#)

[Improve heart health in 10 minutes a day](#)

[Try Mayo Clinic Health Letter Online and get 2 FREE Special Reports!](#)

Mayo Clinic is a not-for-profit organization and proceeds from Web advertising help support our mission. Mayo Clinic does not endorse any of the products and services advertised.

[Advertising and sponsorship policy](#)

[Advertising and sponsorship opportunities](#)

Mayo Clinic products and services

[Book: Mayo Clinic Family Health Book, 4th Edition](#)

See Also

[Rheumatoid arthritis](#)

[Lupus](#)

[Scleroderma](#)

[Mononucleosis](#)

[Urinalysis](#)

[Sed rate \(erythrocyte sedimentation rate\)](#)

References

Aug. 31, 2011

MY00787

© 1998-2012 Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research (MFMER). All rights reserved. A single copy of these materials may be reprinted for noncommercial personal use only. "Mayo," "Mayo Clinic," "MayoClinic.com," "EmbodyHealth," "Enhance your life," and the triple-shield Mayo Clinic logo are trademarks of Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research.

[RSS Feeds](#)

Free E-Newsletters

Subscribe to receive the latest updates on health topics.

[About our newsletters](#)

- Housecall
- Alzheimer's caregiving
- Living with cancer

Enter e-mail

Subscribe

About this site	Site help	Contact us	E-newsletter
Blogs	Podcasts	Slide shows	Videos
Site map	Reprints and permissions	Interest Based Ads	

Find Mayo Clinic on

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [YouTube](#)

[Privacy policy \(Updated Aug. 2, 2011\)](#) [Terms and conditions of use policy \(Updated Aug. 2, 2011\)](#)

LEGAL CONDITIONS AND TERMS OF USE APPLICABLE TO ALL USERS OF THIS SITE. ANY USE OF THIS SITE CONSTITUTES YOUR AGREEMENT TO THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF USE.

© 1998-2012 Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research. All rights reserved.



We comply with the HONcode standard for trustworthy health information: verify here.