

# ANCA DIAGNOSTICS IN AUSTRIA EVALUATED WITH THE EASI QUESTIONNAIRE

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The European Autoantibody Standardization Initiative (EASI) evaluated the current approach of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA) determination in laboratories using a questionnaire adapted from a Dutch questionnaire (1). In Austria the original English version of the adapted EASI questionnaire was distributed to laboratories where ANCA have been determined.

16 questionnaires (university hospital 3, non-university hospital 9, commercial laboratories 4) were returned. 9 laboratories are certified by an official quality assessment organization, 4 not, 3 on the way to certification.

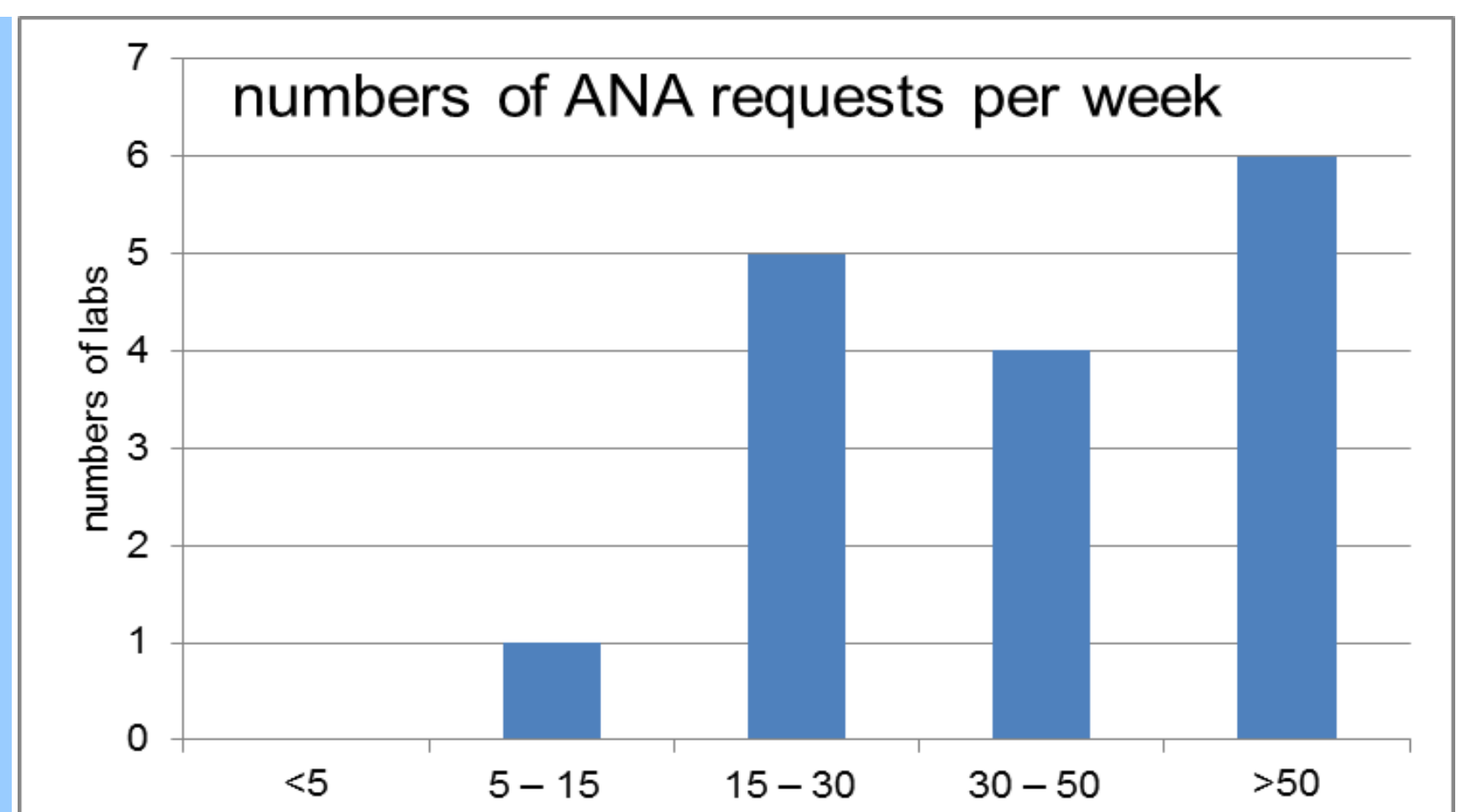
Most laboratories do more than 15 ANCA determinations per week (figure 1). 8 laboratories detect ANCA by the indirect immunofluorescence (iIF) technique. iIF screening dilutions of 1/10 (2 labs), 1/20 (5 labs) and 1/40 (1 lab) are used. iIF positive ANCA are titrated by all laboratories and endtiter is reported. Also ANCA pattern (c-ANCA, p-ANCA and atypical ANCA) are described. Results from ANCA determinations by immunoassays are reported as negative, borderline or positive in most laboratories. PR3- and MPO-ANCA are measured with commercially available kits. The recommended cut-off value of the kit is used in all laboratories. In common there is no policy of the number of ANCA requests in a certain patient within a specific time-span. Half of the laboratories (n=8) offer rapid ANCA testing during normal working hours. We hope that the Austrian questionnaire is a useful addition to EASI-activities trying to harmonize the procedure for testing ANCA.

1. Damoiseaux J. Results of the EASI questionnaire on ANCA. 8<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Autoimmunity, May 2012, Granada, Spain

2. Savige J, Gillis D, Benson E et al. International Consensus Statement on Testing and Reporting of Antineutrophil Cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA). *Am J Clin Pathol.* 1999;111:507-13

## major findings:

- In general there is a good agreement with the results of an international survey with the same questionnaire (1).
- Half of the labs are using iIF for ANCA detection.
- All labs using iIF report c- and p-ANCA, 7 out of 8 report atypical ANCA.
- In all iIF labs formaline-fixed cells are used though not recommended in the last ANCA consensus (2).
- Also our results point out the need for a new consensus dealing with ANCA determination, reporting results and follow-up strategy.



selected questions from the survey

