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BONE DESTRUCTION and RANKL EXPRESSION in REUMATOID SYNOVIA

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Background: Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is characterized by massive proliferation of synovia and irreversible bone destruction in affected joints. Activated osteoclasts certainly have a main role in bone destruction in RA and receptor activator of nuclear factor kappa-B (RANK) and RANK-ligand (RANKL) system may be an important role in rheumatoid bone destruction through the osteoclastogenesis.

Materials and methods: Synovial tissues and eroded bone were collected from RA patients with their consents in our hospital. Immunohistochemical staining for RANKL and immunohistochemical transmitted electron microscopic methods were performed.

Results: RANKL expressed on fibroblast-like cells and round mononuclear cells abundantly in the rheumatoid synovia and form the bone resorption pit.

Conclusion: The RANKL expression is up-regulated in RA synovia and may take a critical role of osteoclastogenesis in rheumatoid bone resorption.