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Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia Associated with Systemic Lupus erythematosus

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Lishner et al. [1] have recently described, in this Journal, the case of a 48-year-old woman who developed chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) 5 years after she was diagnosed as suffering from systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). The authors emphasize the rarity of such an association and review the few similar cases published in the literature, mainly before 1970. We wish to complete this review of the literature and briefly report two identical cases which were recently published [2].

The first patient was a 72-year female who developed SLE (Coombs-positive hemolytic anemia, arthritis, antinuclear factor, LE cells) 2 years after diagnosis of CLL. She later succumbed to an inoperable gastric carcinoma. The second patient was a 70-year-old man whose diagnosis of CLL was arrived at while he was hospitalized because of pleuritic pain and ar-thralgia. Antinuclear factor was strongly positive and LE cells were abundant in the peripheral blood. These two cases of coexistent CLL and SLE tend to confirm that this association is not coincidental as emphasized by Lishner et al. [1].

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