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**Chronic spontaneous urticaria and autoimmunity is there a link****Vesna Trajkova**

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**Statement of the Problem:** Chronic spontaneous urticaria (CSU) is a mast cell-driven skin disease characterized by the recurrence of transient wheals, angioedema, or both for more than 6 weeks. Autoimmunity is thought to be one of the most frequent causes of CSU. The purpose of this study is to investigate possible correlations between clinical and biological markers and their associations with autoimmunity. **Methodology & Theoretical Orientation:** This study assessed 230 patients with CSU and 130 healthy subjects. Autoimmune status was inferred in the case of a personal history of concomitant autoimmune disease or in the presence of at least one type of: anti- thyroid peroxidase (Anti-TPO), anti-nuclear antibodies (ANA) and rheumatoid factor (RF). Broad clinical and biological

analysis was performed. Findings: In this study 40.28% of patients were considered as having a positive autoimmune status, a concomitant autoimmune disease was present in 75.17 % of patients, mainly thyroiditis (39,31%), Vitiligo (13.79%), Arthritis Rheumatica (9.66%), allergic asthma (61.38%); positive autologous skin serum test (ASST) (86.9%); predominantly present Anti -TPO ( $p=0.000001$ ); RF ( $p=0.0098$ ), ANA (28.7%); D-dimer (84.14%,  $p=0.0085$ ); and low IgE serum levels (11.72%). **Conclusion & Significance:** In this prospective study, we found a relatively high incidence of concomitant autoimmune disease, autoantibodies and positive ASST, which brings additional evidence over the connection between HSU and autoimmunity.

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