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SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS PATIENTS AT CHULALONGKORN HOSPITAL.
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DEESOMCHOK, MD. 103 pp. ISBN 974-579-173-3

The current investigation examined the antigens of HLA-A, B, DR and C2 typing in 50 patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and 100 healthy persons. The most common antigens of the HLA system in Thais were found to be HLA-A11, A9, B15, B40, DR2 and DR7. The distribution of HLA-A in SLE patients was not statistically different from normal, but there were a statistically significant decrease in the frequency of HLA-B12 (4% vs 20%, $P=0.018$, $RR=0.17$) and increase in the frequency of HLA-DR2 (64% vs 32%, $P=0.0032$, $RR=3.78$). Cluster analysis of the age of onset of disease showed positive association of HLA-B40 and HLA-DR2 in the groups of early onset (20 years and 30 years, respectively). Study of C2 typing by immunoblotting-isoelectric focusing in healthy controls revealed two variants namely C2C (C2 common, 99%) and C2BC (1%). No difference in the frequencies of these two variants between patients and controls has been observed.

The increased HLA-DR2 in Thai SLE patients in this study is consistent with others' finding in different Asian populations.