IDENTITY OF WEGENER’S AUTOANTIGEN (P29) WITH PROTEINASE 3 AND MYELOBLASTIN

To the Editor:

The identity of the Wegener’s autoantigen (p29, AGP7) with proteinase 3 has been controversial due to disagreements in the N-terminal sequence of the protein. The modified N-terminal sequence of proteinase 3 recently reported (shown using the single letter amino acid code, Fig 1A) now agrees with our initial sequence and that of Gabay et al. Furthermore, our extended N-terminal sequence (Fig 1A) and the recent derivation of an additional chymotryptic fragment (Fig 1B) and a DFP-binding peptide from p29 (AGP7)1, confirm that the Wegener’s autoantigen is in fact highly homologous or identical with a previously reported serine proteinase with antiproliferative properties called myeloblastin.

The identity of Wegener’s autoantigen with cloned myeloblastin should now facilitate studies aimed at understanding the physiologic function of myeloblastin in neutrophils and the possible pathophysiologic role of autoantibodies in Wegener’s Granulomatosis.

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REFERENCES

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