



Autoimmune disease

Robert Henry *

Professor & Director, Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation, The University of Queensland, Australia

Abstract

An autoimmune disease is a condition in which your immune system mistakenly attacks your body. The immune system normally guards against germs like bacteria and viruses. When it senses these foreign invaders, it sends out an army of fighter cells to attack them. Normally, the immune system can tell the difference between foreign cells and your own cell.

In an autoimmune disease, the immune system, mistakes part of your body, like your joints or skin, as foreign. It releases proteins called auto antibodies that attack healthy cells. Some autoimmune diseases target only one organ. Type 1 diabetes damages the pancreas. Other diseases, like systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), affect the whole body.

Tel: 6734 E-mail: robert.henry@q.uq.edu.au

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Addison's disease affects the adrenal glands, which produce the hormones cortisol and aldosterone as well as androgen hormones. Having too little of cortisol can affect the way the body uses and stores carbohydrates and sugar (glucose). Deficiency of aldosterone will lead to sodium loss and excess potassium in the blood stream. Symptoms include weakness, fatigue, weight loss, and low blood sugar.

One potential symptom of this disease is bulging eyes, called Graves. substance used to stimulate the production of antibodies and provide immunity against one or several diseases, prepared from the causative agent of a disease, its products, or a synthetic substitute, treated to act as an antigen without inducing the disease.