

Erratum

The role of X-chromosome inactivation in female predisposition to autoimmunity

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It has come to our attention that we overlooked a previous publication in the course of discussing our work (cited above) on X chromosome inactivation and autoimmunity. We proposed a model that is very similar to one put forward in 1977 by Richard Kast [1]. The central concept is that X inactivation patterns in a tolerizing compartment, such as the thymus, may differ from those in the periphery, and this may predispose females to additional risk of autoimmunity. Presumably the loss of tolerance due to this mechanism will be directed at, or initiated by, polymorphic X-linked autoantigens. Our data neither confirm nor definitively refute this idea, and it will be challenging to develop experimental support for this hypothesis. In any case, we apologize for the oversight in not citing Dr Kast's previous publication.

1. Kast RE: **Predominance of autoimmune and rheumatic diseases in females.** *J Rheumatol* 1977, **4**: 288–292.