

**Table 3 Frequency of elevated traditional laboratory parameters and mean levels of inflammatory markers in the control group and in subgroups of patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)**

Marker	Controls (n = 20)	Active SLE <sup>a</sup> (n = 24)	Inactive SLE (n = 19)	P-value
Elevated CRP level [no. (%) of patients]	1 (5.0)	17 (70.8)	5 (26.3)	< 0.05 <sup>b,c</sup>
Positive anti-dsDNA [no. (%) of patients]	0 (0.0)	15 (62.5)	9 (47.3)	< 0.05 <sup>b</sup>
Mean C3 level (g/L)	1.23	0.64	0.89	< 0.05 <sup>b</sup>
Mean C4 level (g/L)	0.31	0.16	0.15	< 0.05 <sup>b</sup>
Mean neopterin level (nmol/L)	6.7	14.3	10.1	< 0.05 <sup>b,c</sup>
Mean sICAM-1 level (ng/mL)	275.1	669.7	490.6	< 0.05 <sup>b</sup>
Mean sVCAM-1 level (ng/mL)	782	1721	1465	< 0.05 <sup>b,c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Total BILAG score > 5.

<sup>b</sup>P < 0.05 between SLE patients and controls; <sup>c</sup>P < 0.05 between active and inactive SLE patients.

CRP = C-reactive protein; anti-dsDNA = antibodies to double-stranded DNA; C3 and C4 = complement components 3 and 4; sICAM-1 = soluble intercellular adhesion molecule; sVCAM-1 = soluble vascular cell adhesion molecule.