

# Criteria developed for idiopathic inflammatory myopathies

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(HealthDay)—New classification criteria have been developed for

idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIM), according to an article published in the December issue of *Arthritis & Rheumatology*.

Ingrid E. Lundberg, M.D., Ph.D., from Karolinska University Hospital in Stockholm, and colleagues developed and validated new classification criteria for adult and juvenile IIM. Using published criteria and expert opinion, candidate variables were assembled; data were included from 47 rheumatology, dermatology, neurology, and pediatric clinics.

The researchers derived new criteria from 976 IIM patients and 624 non-IIM [patients](#) with mimicking conditions. Each item was given a weighted [score](#); the total score corresponded to the likelihood of having IIM. A probability cutoff of 55 percent, representing a score of 5.5 (6.7 with muscle [biopsy](#)) was defined as probable IIM and had the best sensitivity and specificity (87 and 82 percent, respectively, without biopsies and 93 and 88 percent, respectively, with biopsies); this was recommended as the minimum to classify a patient with IIM. Definite IIM was defined based on a probability of  $\geq 90$  percent, corresponding to a score of  $\geq 7.5$  ( $\geq 8.7$  with muscle biopsy). A probability of

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