I57. WHAT IS THE ROLE OF TYPE 17 IMMUNE RESPONSES IN SPA PATHOGENESIS AND DO THEY DEFINE NEW TREATMENT TARGETS?

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Th17 cells are a recently discovered subset of potent pro-inflammatory CD4+ T cells typified by production of IL17. Genetic and immunological studies have strongly implicated Th17 responses the pathogenesis of the SpAs. The validity of targeting this pathway has been confirmed by demonstration of the clinical efficacy of the anti-IL17 mAb secukinumab in AS and PsA. The type 17 pathway also involves other cytokines including IL21, IL22 and IL23, and anti-IL23 therapy has also been effective in SpA. Type 17 responses are not reliably defined by cell surface markers or limited to T cells, and much more needs to be understood. This talk will outline the type 17 pathway and describe key therapeutic targets.

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