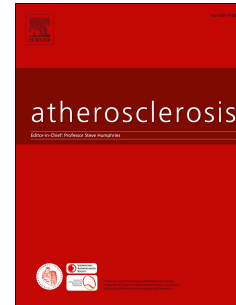


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Association of aortic perivascular adipose tissue density with aortic calcification in women with systemic *lupus erythematosus*

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1 **Association of aortic perivascular adipose tissue density with aortic calcification in women with**  
2 **systemic *lupus erythematosus***

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14  
15 **Abstract**

16 *Background and aims:* Women with systemic *lupus erythematosus* (SLE) have an increased risk of  
17 cardiovascular disease (CVD). Perivascular adipose tissue (PVAT) surrounds the vascular wall, is  
18 associated with CVD risk factors, and may contribute to premature CVD in SLE. We previously found  
19 greater volumes of aortic PVAT associated with aortic calcification (AC) in female SLE patients. There is  
20 recent evidence that not only volume but adipose density may also be indicative of inflammation. We  
21 hypothesized that female SLE patients would have a difference in aPVAT quality associated with AC that  
22 is independent of volume.

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