

**ENDOMETRIOSIS AND AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES:  
IS THERE A LINK? A CASE CONTROL STUDY**

**Obiettivo:** The aim of the study is to evaluate an increasing of the prevalence of autoimmune diseases in women with endometriosis compared to a control group in order to confirm a correlation with autoimmune diseases.

**Metodi:** In our case-control study we enrolled 148 women affected by endometriosis and 150 controls. Autoimmune diseases considered were Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), Celiac Disease (CD), Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), Autoimmune thyroiditis. A chi square analysis was performed to compare the prevalence of autoimmune diseases of the two groups

**Risultati:** In the case group 5 patients were affected by IBD, but no one had the disease in the control group ( $p=0.07$ ). 8 patients in the case group were affected by SLE, while only 1 was affected in the control group ( $p=0.01$ ). Considering celiachia, in the case group we found 15 women affected and only 1 in the control group ( $p<0.0001$ ). Finally we studied the correlation between endometriosis and autoimmune thyroiditis: 80 patients of the case group were affected by thyroiditis versus 14 patients affected in the control group ( $p<0.0001$ ).

**Conclusioni:** Our study reports a potential association between endometriosis and autoimmunity, showing a significative trend for increased prevalence of autoimmune diseases in women affected by endometriosis, except for IBD. This result can be strictly correlated with the autoimmune genesis of endometriosis.