



Preface

Rheumatologic emergencies in the intensive  
care unit



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*Guest Editors*

This issue of *Critical Care Clinics* focuses on the patient with rheumatologic/collagen vascular disease. Although this type of patient is not frequently encountered in the intensive care unit (ICU), they pose a challenge to the intensivist. The underlying collagen vascular disease typically involves multiple organs. The associated comorbidities complicate the course of the acute illness, and mortality in this patient population is significantly higher than the other patients in the medical ICU.

In this issue, we bring together the expertise of intensivists and specialists whose breadth of knowledge is well recognized. The issue focuses on the critically ill patients with systemic lupus erythematosus, systemic sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, vasculitis, pulmonary renal syndromes, and neuromuscular disorders. The majority of patients with connective tissue disorders present to the ICU from either complications of the primary disorder or infections due to immunosuppression. Although basic mechanisms are reviewed, the main focus of this issue is clinical management.

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