

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-54218

Date: 08-10-2025

Title: EVALUATION OF NEUTROPHIL-TO-LYMPHOCYTE AND PLATELET-TO-LYMPHOCYTE RATIOS AS BIOMARKERS OF DISEASE ACTIVITY IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS..

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance		✓		

Reviewer Name: Dr. Aamina.

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

This manuscript evaluates the utility of neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio (NLR) and platelet-to-lymphocyte ratio (PLR) as simple, cost-effective biomarkers for monitoring disease activity in rheumatoid arthritis (RA). The prospective design, inclusion of 100 patients, and use of established disease activity indices (DAS28, CDAI) provide a solid foundation for the study.

Strengths:

- The study addresses a relevant clinical need for inexpensive, easily accessible markers in RA disease monitoring, particularly valuable in resource-limited settings.
- The prospective design and follow-up after three months of treatment strengthen the findings by assessing dynamic changes in NLR and PLR alongside clinical indices.
- Strong correlations between NLR/PLR and validated composite indices support the potential clinical utility of these hematological ratios.
- Clear presentation of methods and statistical analysis enhances reproducibility.

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Areas for Improvement:

1. **Sample size and generalizability:** While 100 patients provide reasonable preliminary data, a larger, multi-center cohort would increase the external validity of findings. This limitation should be acknowledged in the discussion.
2. **Control for confounders:** Further detail on medication regimens and their potential impact on hematological parameters would improve interpretation, as immunosuppressants may alter counts.
3. **Clarify laboratory methods:** Brief description of quality control for blood counts and the timing of sample collection relative to treatment initiation would be helpful.
4. **Language polishing:** Minor grammatical improvements and sentence restructuring would enhance readability, especially in the introduction.

Conclusion:

The study adds valuable evidence supporting the use of NLR and PLR as reliable, inexpensive surrogate markers for RA disease activity. Incorporating these ratios into routine clinical practice could facilitate treatment monitoring, especially where advanced laboratory facilities are unavailable. With minor revisions addressing the above points, the manuscript is suitable for publication.