False positive antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody in a patient with infective endocarditis

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We report a gentleman suffering from purpuric skin rash mimicking vasculitis associated with impaired renal function. He was found to have positive cytoplasmic antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (c-ANCA) in the serum, but the test for anti-proteinase 3 antibodies (PR3-ANCA) was negative. Blood culture and echocardiogram confirmed the diagnosis of Streptococcal Oralis infective endocarditis. The renal biopsy did not show any features of vasculitis or crescentic glomerulo-nephritis. His skin rash subsided and renal function normalized after treatment of the infective endocarditis with appropriate antibiotics. Therefore, we conclude that for those patients presenting with features of vasculitis and a positive ANCA test, other causes, such as infective endocarditis, should be considered. (Hong Kong J Nephrol 2001;3 (1):41-44)

**Key words:** Antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA), Infective endocarditis, Small vessel vasculitis