

## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Co-occurrence of autoimmune disorders is widely reported, however the relationship between asthma and autoimmunity is more complex. This is further complicated by the presence of drug induced disease entities. Using a systems approach and revisiting pathophysiological mechanisms is imperative in such situations.

**Case:** A 59 year old male with moderate persistent asthma presented with a 2 month history of diarrhea, vomiting and generalized oedema. He had vitiligo, a diffuse goiter and Cushingoid features. Investigations confirmed autoimmune hypothyroidism. The rest of the autoimmune workup and screening for infections and neoplasia were negative. Enteroscopy and biopsy revealed nonspecific inflammation. Although biochemical hypercortisolism was not demonstrated, the presence of Cushingoid features and osteoporosis in a background of long term steroid use for asthma led to a diagnosis of exogenous Cushing syndrome. An acquired Bartter like syndrome was also identified.

**Conclusion:** In a patient with a single autoimmune disease there is a high likelihood of multisystem autoimmunity. An association with asthma is also noted. Drug induced disease should always be considered in complex clinical scenarios.