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313

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L. J Respectation	
Inflammatory Protein Variations: Medical Knowledge Representation and Approximate Reasoning R. Bartolin, V. Bonniol, E. Sanchez	306
Sequential Bayesian Test from Fuzzy Experimental Information M.R. Casals, A. Salas	314
An Intuitive Representation of Imperfect Information E. Charpentier, J.P. Daurès, P. Dujols, F. Grémy	322
A Method for Determination of Evidential Weighting Factors in a Medical Expert System D.L. Hudson, M.E. Cohen	330
A Study of Arab Computers Users: A Special Case of a General HCI Methodology M. Kallala, W. Bellin	338
Knowledge-Based Systems Application to Reduce Risk in Software Requirements J.D. Palmer, M. Myers	351
Prioritized, Non-Pointwise, Nonmonotonic Intersection and Union for Commonsense Reasoning R.R. Yager	359
LATE ARRIVALS	
Multi-Criteria Decision Making in Terms of Probabilistic Sets E. Czogala	366
Putting into Practice Moreau's Extended Generalized Modus Ponens A.M. Petieau, A. Moreau, D. Willaeys	373
Evidence Aggregation in Expert Judgments S.F. Garribba, A. Servida	385
INVITED PAPER	
Conditioning in Possibility and Evidence Theories - A Logical Viewpoint D. Dubois, H. Prade	401





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ABSTRACT

It is proposed a medical knowledge representation of inflammatory protein variations involving complex relationships, frequently encountered in Internal Medicine. A linguistic model has been represented by a fuzzy set pattern expressing relative variations of serum proteins levels. Weights have been introduced into this pattern to translate relative importance among proteins. Three indexes or measures (possibility, necessity and truth-possibility) have been used for pattern matching purposes. Finally, a separating power yielding non fuzzy partitions has allowed to assign the corresponding diagnoses to patients (over 160 cases).

Keywords: Inflammatory proteins, Linguistic model, Medical knowledge representation, Approximate reasoning, Weights of importance, Fuzzy matching, Separating power.

I - INTRODUCTION

In internal medicine, many diseases are associated with an inflammatory syndrome. Given an inflammatory syndrome (I.S.) observed on a patient, it is difficult to assign a right diagnosis, based on specific protein variations. The main reason is that some I.S. are typical but, unfortunately most of the I.S. are non typical. In a typical I.S., proteins are all increased in similar proportions and in the same way, as it is the case for severe Infections and Septicemias. In a non typical I.S., like Vasculitis and Collagen Diseases, protein variations are dissociated, for example two or three protein levels are increased while some others are normal or decreased. Moreover for a given I.S., proteins are not all equally important, so that relative weighting of proteins has to be adjusted.