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**Title:** Assessing sarcoidosis: The King's Sarcoidosis Questionnaire and the minimal important difference

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**Body:** Introduction: The King's Sarcoidosis Questionnaire (KSQ) is a brief, validated, multi-organ, health status questionnaire. This study aimed to determine the minimal important difference (MID). Methods: 60 patients with pulmonary sarcoidosis attending clinic (mean age 52 years, duration 7 years, 50% female, 67% Caucasian; 76% immunosuppressive medications) were asked to complete the KSQ on 2 occasions (change of therapy n=25). Combined Lung-Health Status modules (Lung-HS) consisted of 16 items and impact of medications 3 items; scoring range 0-100, 100=best. At the second visit patients also completed a 15-item global rating of change questionnaire (GRCQ). The MID corresponded to the mean change in KSQ in patients indicating a small change in GRCQ ( $\pm 2/3$ ) and was also estimated by determining 1xSEM and effect size (ES) of 0.3. Results: Health status was impaired at baseline; mean (SD) Lung-HS 54(24) and Medication score 60(29). 20 patients deteriorated, 18 improved and 22 were unchanged. The GRCQ scores were associated with change in Lung-HS;  $r=0.4$ ,  $p<0.01$ . There was a significant change in Lung-HS score in patients reporting a change in GRCQ; mean (SD) 52(3) vs 58(4); 95% CI 1 to 12;  $p=0.02$ . The Lung-HS MID determined by GRCQ, SEM and 0.3-ES were 5, 6 and 7 point change respectively. The Lung-HS MID determined by GRCQ for those improving and those deteriorating was 6 and 5 respectively. The MID of individual General HS, Lung and Medication modules determined by GRCQ were 5, 9 and 9 respectively. Conclusion: The KSQ is responsive to changes in health status and can be used for longitudinal assessment of patients with sarcoidosis. The MID of the combined KSQ Lung-Health Status modules is a 5 point change.