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Title: Pulmonary functions in systemic sclerosis

Prof. Abdalla 385 Khoury info@pr-akhoury.com MD ¹, Dr. Firas 386 Abou-Trabeh info@pr-akhoury.com MD ¹ and Prof. Saeid 387 Hamdoun info@pr-akhoury.com MD ². ¹ Internal Medicine, Aleppo University Hospital, Aleppo, Syrian Arab Republic, 00000 and ² Rheumatology, Aleppo Faculty of Medicine, Aleppo, Syrian Arab Republic .

Body: Background: Pulmonary involvement is the leading cause of systemic sclerosis (SSc)-related deaths. Objective: To determine the prevalence of pulmonary involvement in systemic sclerosis and its distributions on the disease subsets, and to study its relation with other organ involvement. Methods: We analyzed 43 SSc patients, a careful history and clinical examination was performed to each patient, All the patients were submitted to chest radiographs and high-resolution CT (HRCT) and underwent pulmonary function testing and echocardiography and electrocardiography and six minutes walk test. Patients were grouped into four descriptive disease subsets: lcSSc, dcSSc, SSc sine scleroderma and overlap-syndrome. Results. Of the 43 patients, (53.5%) of patients had lcSSc and (27.9%) dcSSc. Overlap syndrome was diagnosed in (11.6%) of patients, SSc sine scleroderma was present in (7%) of patients, (93%) were female and the mean age was 41.67 ± 11.51 , (55.8%) of the patients had pulmonary symptoms or signs, dyspnea was the most prevalent symptom (37.2%). Pulmonary fibrosis was most prevalent involvement (41.9%), and it was more common in dcSSc (41.6%) compared with lcSSc (30.4%), pulmonary hypertension was second in prevalence (PASP>35 mmHg) 20.9% and it was more common in lcSSc (21.7%) compared with dcSSc (8.3%). (62.8%) of the patients had restrictive pulmonary function test. (65.1%) of the patients had normal six minutes walk test. Discussion: Our results will be discussed with well known international studies.