I70. SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS AND THE LUNG

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SSc is a heterogeneous condition. Up to 65% patients with SSc develop interstitial lung disease (ILD) as seen on HRCT chest scan. Studies have shown that this usually occurs in the early years. Severe ILD can be seen in patients with both limited and diffuse cutaneous SSc. Pulmonary complications, both ILD and pulmonary arterial hypertension, are now the main cause of disease-related mortality in patients with SSc. It is important to detect these problems early. This talk will outline how to investigate, monitor and treat ILD in a patient with SSc. I will also refer to the UK Scleroderma Study Group Best Practice ILD Recommendations.

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