

File 2 Online supplement

Definitions of co-morbidities and clinical SSc manifestations

- SSc duration: the age at disease onset was considered to be the age at which the first signs and symptoms compatible with the disease appeared; namely, Raynaud with digital ischemic lesions, puffy hands, sclerodactyly with or without proximal scleroderma, dyspnea, and/or dysphagia (1).
- Cutaneous subset: patients were classified as having limited cutaneous scleroderma (sclerosis of distal extremities, not above the elbow and knees, with or without sclerosis of neck and face) or diffuse cutaneous scleroderma (sclerosis of both distal and proximal extremities, with or without truncal involvement). Patients with sine scleroderma SSc were invariably included in the limited cutaneous SSc subset (1).
- Autoantibodies: antinuclear (ANA) and antinucleolar antibodies (ANoA) were detected by indirect immunofluorescence on Hep-2 cell lines (dilution 1:40); anti-extractable nuclear antigen (ENA) antibodies, including anti-Scl70, and anti-CENP, were detected by ELISA technique (1).
- Diabetes: diabetes was defined according with the current WHO diagnostic criteria: fasting plasma glucose ≥ 7.0 mmol/l (126mg/dl) or 2-h plasma glucose ≥ 11.1 mmol/l (200mg/dl) (2).
- Smoker: A current smoker is a person who has smoked at least 100 cigarettes and who now smokes; the definition of a current smoker includes persons who smoked every day or some days (3).
- Hypercholesterolemia: hypercholesterolemia was either total cholesterol greater than 200 mg/dl, LDL-cholesterol greater than 115 mg/dl, HDL-cholesterol less than 40 mg/dl or a combination thereof (4).
- Arterial hypertension: Arterial hypertension was defined according with the European Society of Hypertension and of the European Society of Cardiology. We defined all patients with a

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3 systolic blood pressure of 140 mmHg or more and/or a diastolic blood pressure of 90 mmHg or
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5 more (5).

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- 8 • Anti-phospholipid syndrome: we defined anti-phospholipid syndrome according with the 2006
9 revised classification criteria (6).
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 - 12 • Peripheral arterial vascular disease: Peripheral arterial vascular disease was defined according
13 with Fowkes FG (7).
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 - 16 • Calcium channel blockers and immunosuppressive treatments: we considered patients treated
17 for at least three months before the nailfold videocapillaroscopy.
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 - 20 • Prostanoids: we considered patients treated with monthly infusion of iloprost or alprostadil for
21 at least three months before the nailfold videocapillaroscopy.
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