Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is a systemic autoimmune disease. Sexual function has been associated with a high prevalence of dissatisfaction. Various factors have been implicated as causes of impaired sexual function. CSFQ-14 (Changes in Sexual Functioning Questionnaire) assesses changes in sexual functioning due to disease and/or treatment in 5 domains with a score range of 14-70; cut-off point indicating sexual dysfunction < 41 men and < 47 women.

Objectives: To evaluate the frequency and degree of sexual dysfunction in patients with systemic sclerosis.

Methods: Prospective, observational, cross-sectional study of the cohort of the Rheumatology service at Hospital Docente Padre Billini. Patients were interviewed in November 2021. Inclusion criteria: > 18 years, diagnosis of SSc by ACR/EULAR 2013 classification criteria, at least 1 sexual relationship. Exclusion criteria: previous diagnosis of another autoimmune disease, depression, diabetes, treatment with antidepressants, antiepileptics, narcotics. Measurement of CSFQ-14, mRSS. Statistical analysis was performed with the Pearson correlation (r) with p<0.05. The data was analyzed by SPSS V23.

Results: Of 63 patients, 54 met the inclusion criteria. 100% female, mean age 53 ± 15.07 years, mean duration 11.3 years, ISSc 24.1 ±13, dSSc 75.9% ±41, single 50% (27), married 44.4% (24), widowed 5.6% (3). Frequency of sexual dysfunction 81.5% (44). Domains: pleasure 79.6% (43), desire/interest 37% (20), frequency 50% (27), married 44.4% (24), widowed 5.6% (3). Frequency of sexual dysfunction: mild mRSS 35% (7), moderate 20% (4), severe 35% (7), terminal 10% (2).

Frequency desire dysfunction: mild mRSS 35% (7), moderate 20% (4), severe 35% (7), terminal 10% (2). Desire/interest dysfunction: mild mRSS 35% (7), moderate 20% (4), severe 35% (7), terminal 10% (2). Frequency desire dysfunction: normal mRSS 2.3% (1), mild 25% (11), moderate 5.7% (12), severe 36.4% (16), terminal 20.5% (9). Arousal dysfunction: normal mRSS 4% (1), mild 16% (4), moderate 16% (4), severe 36% (9), terminal 26% (7). Orgasm/pleasure dysfunction: normal mRSS 2.3% (1), mild 22% (9), moderate 22% (9), severe 26.8% (11), r=0.05 p=0.05.

Conclusion: The study demonstrated a high frequency of sexual dysfunction in most of the population studied. The desire/frequency dysfunction domain turned out to be the one with the highest presentation, followed by the orgasm/pleasure domain. A statistically significant linear association between sexual dysfunction and cutaneous activity of the disease was evidenced.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interests: None declared