Furthermore, no correlation between CF positivity and the presence of digital ulcers at the moment of the blood sampling was verified; however, if we stratified patients according to their ongoing treatments (absence of an endothelin receptor antagonists therapy plus PD5 inhibitors), a significant correlation between digital ulcers and CF positivity emerged (OR=8.14, 95% CI: 1.03-64.5, p=0.0470, n=91).

**Conclusion:** Our preliminary results on this issue are extremely interesting as they can open new perspectives on the identification of cryofibrinogen as possible prognostic marker that could be involved in the pathogenesis of scleroderma digital ulcers and PAH. Moreover, therapies which are currently used for the treatment of PAH and the management of digital ulcers, could determine circulating cryofibrinogen disappearance, with possible challenging future impact on SSC therapeutic approaches.

**REFERENCES:**


**Disclosure of Interests:** None declared

**DOI:** 10.1136/annrheumdis-2022-eular.3354

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**Figure 1.** Summary Receiver Operating Characteristic curve of PET scan in detecting occult malignancy in IIMs

**Conclusion:** This meta-analysis demonstrates that whole-body $^{18}$F-FDG PET or $^{18}$F-FDG PET/CT has high diagnostic accuracy and moderate to high sensitivity and specificity for detection of underlying malignancy in patients diagnosed with IIMs.

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