



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Systemic sclerosis: can we identify patients at risk?

Leeuwen, N.M. van

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STELLINGEN

1. Systemic Sclerosis involves a wide spectrum of symptoms
2. Not all patients with systemic sclerosis will suffer serious complications, but in its more aggressive form it is the most fatal of all rheumatological diseases
3. Systemic Sclerosis, difficult to pronounce and even more difficult to diagnose. Many patients wait years before receiving a diagnosis (Scleroderma World Organization)
4. The highest disease burden is caused by symptoms influencing physical functioning (dit proefschrift)
5. Gastro-intestinal complaints are very common and have an enormous impact on the daily life of patients with systemic sclerosis (dit proefschrift)
6. We should focus more on complications affecting quality of life instead of only focusing on life threatening complications (dit proefschrift)
7. The function of Systemic Sclerosis specific autoantibodies might reach far beyond clinical associations (dit proefschrift)
8. One of the most important reasons for the lack of specific treatment is the heterogeneity of Systemic Sclerosis
9. For now we will have to accept that the exact pathophysiology of SSC remains a mystery
10. On the plus side, my face started to beat gravity (patient with Systemic Sclerosis)