Special Issue

Systemic Sclerosis: Tools for Diagnosis and Treatment

Message from the Guest Editor

Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is a complex and rare autoimmune disease which carries the highest mortality and morbidity within the spectrum of connective tissue diseases. SSc involves almost every organ system in the body. Symptoms vary greatly among patients and can dramatically impact one's life. The prevalence of SSc may be underestimated. Cases are often undiagnosed or misdiagnosed. Due to late referral to rheumatologic care, many moderate-to-severe cases progress to irreversible end-organ damage which might be prevented by early diagnosis. The recently improved understanding of SSc pathogenesis, which is a combination between fibrosis, vasculopathy, and inflammation, has expanded the array of diagnostic tools. The progress also allows for better care, including a new set of classification criteria, more assessment and follow-up tools, as well as advances in treatment. There are now several effective drugs and updated evidence-based recommendations to manage many of the different organ-based manifestations. Treatment strategies combine the use of immune suppression, antifibrotics, and vasoactive drugs.

Guest Editor

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