**“Mortality from systemic sclerosis in Portugal: results from the Rheumatic Diseases”**

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**Abstract**

-Objectives: To identify the causes of death and risk factors associated with systemic sclerosis (SSc) in Portugal.

-Methods: This study will utilize the Rheumatic Diseases Portuguese Register (Reuma.pt). Patients meeting the 2013 SSc criteria will be analyzed. Individuals lost to follow-up over a 10-year period (2013-2023) will be cross-checked with death certificates to determine any deaths and their causes. We will then identify the risk factors associated with mortality in this population. Reuma.pt was approved by the National Board of Data Protection and by all ethic committees of the participating centers. Participating patients have signed an informed consent authorizing the use of their data for research.

This study (Mortality from systemic sclerosis in Portugal: results from the Rheumatic Diseases Portuguese Register (Reuma.pt))was approved by the Centro Académico de Medicina de Lisboa (CAML) ethical committee under reference number 244/24. In the submission to the CAML ethics committee the requirement for crossing data from SICO to Reuma.pt is clearly stated and was formally approved.