**“Systemic Sclerosis and Cancer: A Multicenter Study”**

Proponents: Rodrigo Rei1, 2, Tomás Stein Novais2, Ana Catarina Duarte2, Ana Cordeiro2, Maria José Santos2, 3

1Rheumatology department, Unidade Local de Saúde do Algarve, Faro, Portugal. 2Rheumatology Department, Unidade Local de Saúde de Almada-Seixal, Almada, Portugal.

3Unidade de Investigação em Reumatologia, Instituto de Medicina Molecular, Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade de Lisboa, Centro Académico de Medicina de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal.

**Abstract**

Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is a rare and complex disease characterized by fibrosis of the skin and internal organs, vascular abnormalities, and dysregulation of the immune system, with pulmonary and cardiovascular complications, accounting for chronic morbidity and high mortality. Malignancy also plays a significant role in the increased mortality observed in this patient population, accounting for 11% of all-cause deaths and 31% of non-SSc related causes. Therefore, enhancing knowledge and raising awareness about cancer in SSc is important for early diagnosis and for improving the prognosis of these patients.

Emerging data suggest that distinct subsets of SSc patients, identified by the presence of specific autoantibodies and clinical features, may have an increased or decreased risk of cancer around SSc onset or during the disease course.

Our aim is to build on existing evidence by identifying most common cancers in a large nationwide SSc cohort and investigating the relationship between cancer and clinical and immunological features on such patients.

A retrospective study will be performed on nationwide SSc patients registered in the Rheumatic Diseases Portuguese Registry (Reuma.pt), including patients with 18 years old at initial diagnosis with a registered diagnosis of SSc defined by 2013 ACR/EULAR classification criteria, or having definite Raynaud’s, abnormal nailfold capillaries and a sclerodermaspecific autoantibody.