

**00563 Work Productivity in Patients With Systemic Sclerosis in Singapore**

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**Aims:** To evaluate work productivity in patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc) in Singapore

**Methodology:** SSc patients with active follow-up visits were interviewed on their employment status and work productivity using the Worker's Productivity and Activity Impairment Questionnaire. Data on demographics and disease characteristics were collected. Univariate analysis was done to compare factors associated with employment status.

**Result:** Among 156 patients interviewed, 48.1% were employed. Comparing unemployed (n=81) to employed patients (n=75), there were more females (96.3% versus 86.7%;  $p=0.041$ ) and patients were older at the time of survey (59.5 versus 50.5 years;  $p<0.0001$ ). The mean age at unemployment was 50.3 years which is below the 62 years, the minimum retirement age in Singapore. Factors associated with unemployment were cardiomyopathy and pulmonary arterial hypertension. Of those working in the week prior to the interview, 10.1% reported missing work (absenteeism) due to their SSc, accounting for 45.3% of their working week. 31 patients reported to have work impairment (presenteeism) due to SSc which accounted for 36.8% of their productivity at work. The overall work impairment (absenteeism and presenteeism) due to SSc for all employed patients accounted for 20.5% of their work productivity. 83 patients also reported that their daily activities were affected by their SSc and comparing across all patients, unemployed patients faced higher percentage of activity impairment (33.2% versus 16.7%,  $P=0.0003$ ).

**Conclusion:** SSc is associated with considerable unemployment and it has an impact of reduced productivity in both the work and daily activities of patients.