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| **Pulmonary hypertension screening in scleroderma patients** |
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| **Introduction/Aim:** The development of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) in systemic sclerosis (SSc) patients is associated with significant mortality and morbidity. Thus, regular screening is recommended by international guidelines for earlier detection of PAH. The aim of this study was to examine the yield of annual screening and associated costs in a real world cohort at a large tertiary centre.**Methods:** A retrospective cohort study was performed on SSc patients currently enrolled in the pulmonary hypertension screening programme and/or being managed for confirmed pulmonary arterial hypertension at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. **Results:** Between 2012 and 2023, a total of 80 SSc patients underwent screening for a median duration of 3.04 years (IQR 1.03-5.67) and 292 years of patient follow-up. A total of 13/80 (%) were diagnosed with right heart catheter confirmed PAH via screening. The incidence rate via the screening programme was 4 per 100 patient years. Compared to a contemporaneous cohort of SSc-PAH who were not diagnosed via screening, the screening cohort displayed milder haemodynamics (mPAP, PVR) and better functional capacity (WHO FC, 6MWD)Within the follow period, a total of 319 transthoracic echocardiograms (1.09/ patient year), 330 pulmonary function tests (1.13/ patient year), 271 NT -pro BNP (0.93/ patient year) and 27 right heart catheter studies (0.09/ patient year) were performed. A total of 386 clinic visits were conducted (1.32/ patient year). Based on the Medicare Benefits Schedule for 2023, this equated to a cost of approximately $560.51 per patient year of screening for diagnostic investigations. **Conclusion:** This study describes the overall incidence rate of SSc PAH hypertension within a targeted screening population, with the results of this study contributing to the quantification of the heath care associated cost burden of screening within this disease population.  **Key Words:** Scleroderma, pulmonary hypertension, screening |