

INCIDENCE OF SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS IN POLAND IN YEARS 2013-2017

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INTRODUCTION Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is an autoimmune, chronic disease mainly affecting the skin, lungs and other internal organs. Because of its rarity and heterogeneous clinical presentation, reliable studies on SSc have been particularly difficult to carry out.

OBJECTIVES We sought to describe patients at first hospitalization for SSc in Poland from 2013 to 2017. This is the continuation of the analysis of the disease in Poland based on a hospital morbidity database. The first evaluation was made for years 2008–2012. Study measured the incidence of systemic sclerosis, gender distribution and territorial differences among hospitalized patients in Poland. **PATIENTS AND METHODS** We conducted a retrospective, population-based study, using hospital discharge records compiled by the National Institute of Public Health. **RESULTS** The study group covered 3323 patients who were first-time hospitalized with SSc diagnosis in analyzed period. The average age of the sample was 53.4 years (SD 16.9, range 1–106 years); 82% of patients were female. Based on the hospitalization registers, the average annual incidence was estimated to be 8.6 per 100,000 in analyzed period. SSc incidence differences were observed in regions of Poland in comparison to the previous study. The incidence rates of SSc in the study group in Poland was increasing, but not statistically in the analyzed period. **CONCLUSIONS** Environmental factors may have a significant impact on the occurrence of SSc in Poland. Presented data on SSc in Poland may also be helpful in comparative analyses of SSc occurrence with other European countries.