Systemic sclerosis

Bibliographic reference	**Forbess et al. (2004)**
Study type	Cross section data from a large case series
Study quality	The Joanna Briggs Institute Prevalence Critical Appraisal Tool (http://ijhpm.com/article_2870_607.html) 1. Was the sample representative of the target population? YES 2. Were study participants recruited in an appropriate way? NO – Unclear is consecutive sample recruited 3. Was the sample size adequate? YES 4. Were the study subjects and the setting described in detail? YES 5. Was the data analysis conducted with sufficient coverage of the identified sample? YES 6. Were objective, standard criteria used for the measurement of the condition? YES 7. Was the condition measured reliably? YES 8. Was there appropriate statistical analysis? YES 9. Are all important confounding factors/subgroups/differences identified and accounted for? YES 10. Were subpopulations identified using objective criteria? NA Overall risk of bias = MODERATE
Country	USA
Number of patients	N=72 patients with systemic sclerosis
Study population	Inclusion: patients participating in the Scleroderma Registry at the Hospital for Special Surgery enrolled from August 2006 to April 2011 with a clinical diagnosis of diffuse or limited systemic sclerosis and an available serum sample; sample size was restricted from 103 to 72 due to limited funding for the study and cost of the arrays Exclusion: localised scleroderma or evidence of overlap with another connective tissue disease Mean age: 51 (SD 13) 88% female 54% diffuse 46% limited disease Mean duration of diagnosis (from onset of first non-Raynaud's symptom): 6 (SD 7) 84% had joint involvement ~50% had sicca symptoms 88% had GI involvement

Details of coeliac testing	Stored sera were tested for anti-tTG IgA and IgG and anti-DGP IgA and IgG (ELISA assay kits from INOVA, San Diego, CA, USA) If any were positive, anti-EMA were tested (Quest Diagnostics, NJ, USA) Bowel endoscopy and biopsy for any positive on serology
Results	3 were positive on serology (one on anti-tTG and two on anti-DGP IgA antibodies) (none for antiEMA) 2 of these 3 patients had biopsy as one died 0% (0/72) had biopsy-confirmed CD (both with positive serology had Marsh 0)
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Conflicts of interest	The authors declared no conflicts
Comments	

Definitions of abbreviations are given at the end of this document.