



**8<sup>th</sup> YEAR**  
**08-10 November 2024**  
InterContinental Dubai - Festival City  
United Arab Emirates



# Morphoea in children, experience from a joint dermatology rheumatology clinic

Dr Charlotte Goodhead



**27<sup>TH</sup> WORLD CONGRESS  
OF DERMATOLOGY 2031**  
DUBAI - CANDIDATE CITY

# Children's rheumatology

We provide specialist care for children with inflammatory diseases



The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals **NHS**  
NHS Foundation Trust

**CONFLICT  
OF  
INTEREST**



# Learning Objectives

Clinical features

Scoring tools

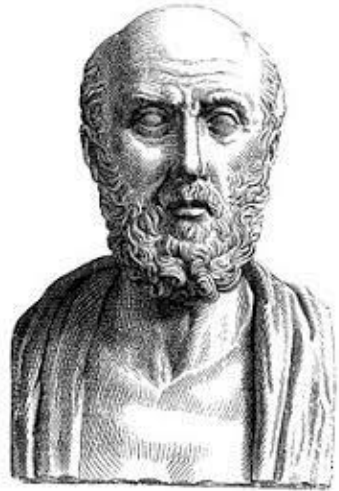
Management

Case examples

Psychosocial impact

# Morphoea, Morphea and Scleroderma....

‘Scleroderma’ was probably first used by Giovambattista Fantonetti in 1836 to describe a 30-year-old patient with skin swelling, pustules and progression to hard brown skin said to be ‘as firm as leather’



- **Scleroderma** hard skin
- **Morphoea** form and structure

“In order to avoid unnecessary confusion on the part of both patients and doctors of other specialties, the authors postulate that localized scleroderma should be called morphea”

(Dańczak-Pazdrowska 2021)

# Classification

## Tuffanelli and Winkelmann classification 1961

### **Morphea**

Circumscribed, sclerotic plaques with an ivory-coloured centre and surrounding violaceous halo.

### **Linear scleroderma**

Linear, band-like distribution

Frontal or frontoparietal linear scleroderma (en coup de sabre) is characterized by atrophy and a furrow or depression that extends below the level of the surrounding skin

### **Generalized morphea**

Widespread skin involvement with multiple indurated plaques, hyperpigmentation and frequent muscle atrophy

(Asano 2018)

## **Peterson et al.classification 1995**

### **Plaque morphea**

Plaque morphea

Guttate morphea

Atrophoderma of Pasini and Pierini

Keloid morphea (nodular morphea)

(Lichen sclerosus et atrophicus)

### **Generalized morphea**

### **Bullous morphea**

### **Linear morphea**

Linear morphea (linear scleroderma)

Morphea en coup de sabre

Progressive facial hemiatrophy

### **Deep morphea**

Morphea profunda

Subcutaneous morphea

Eosinophilic fasciitis

Pansclerotic morphea of

## **Padua Consensus classification 2006**

### **Circumscribed morphea**

(i) Superficial

(ii) DeepLinear

### **Scleroderma**

(i) Trunk/limbs

(ii) Head

### **Generalized Morphea**

### **Pansclerotic morphea**

### **Mixed morphea**

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PATIENT IMAGES  
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## **Sclerosis of skin that can result in significant cosmetic and functional impairment**

Often well-circumscribed

Firm with loss of normal elasticity

Often with a central pale or pigmented area surrounded by reddening at the margins

### **Two distinct phases;**

1. Inflammatory active stage with erythema and enlargement
2. Inactive, sclerotic, atrophic stage of damage

**Can have a varied clinical presentation**

## Linear morphea follows Blaschko's lines

L. Weibel and J.I. Harper

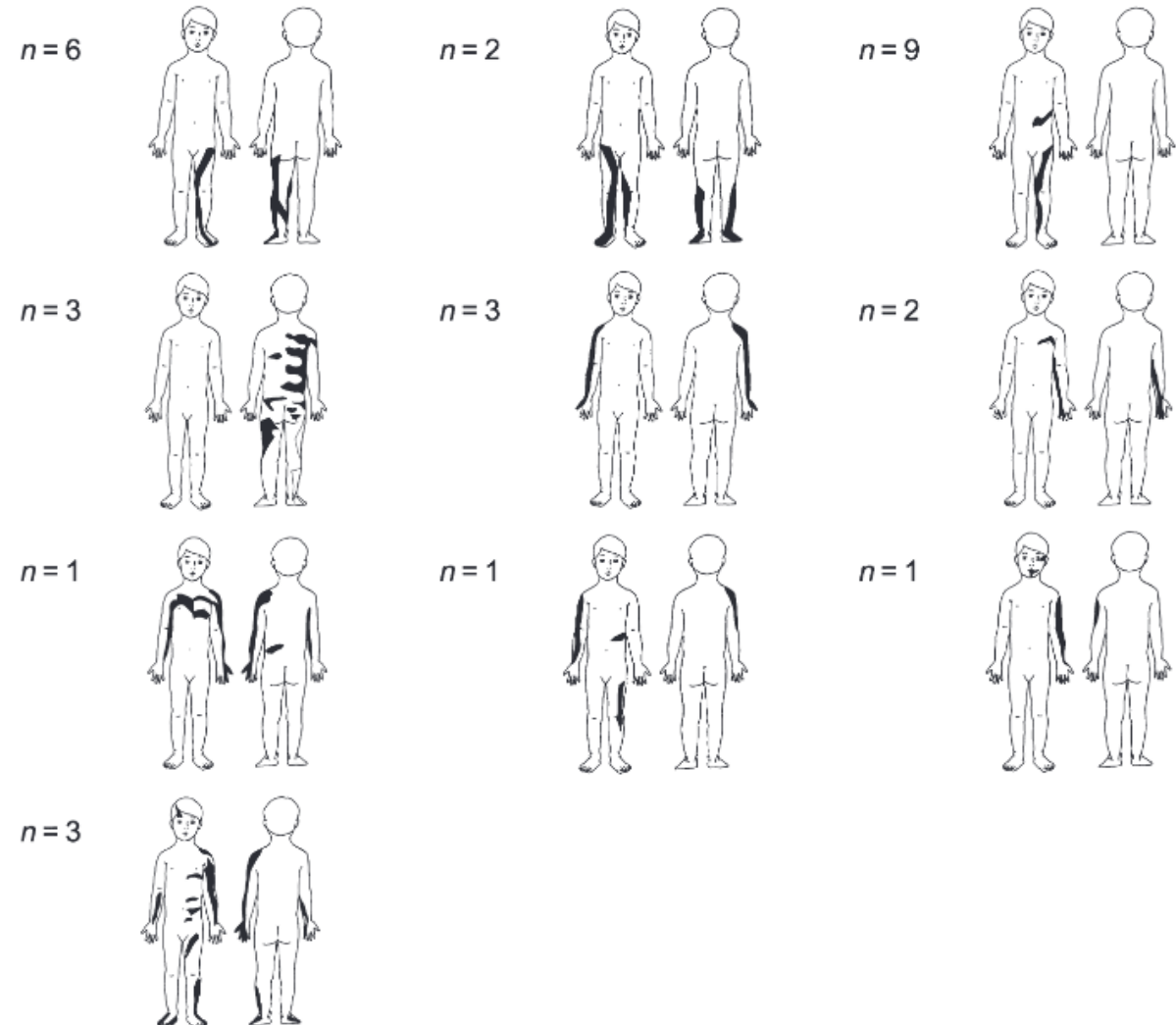
Department of Paediatric Dermatology, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London WC1N 3JH, U.K.

A retrospective chart review of 65 children with linear morphea

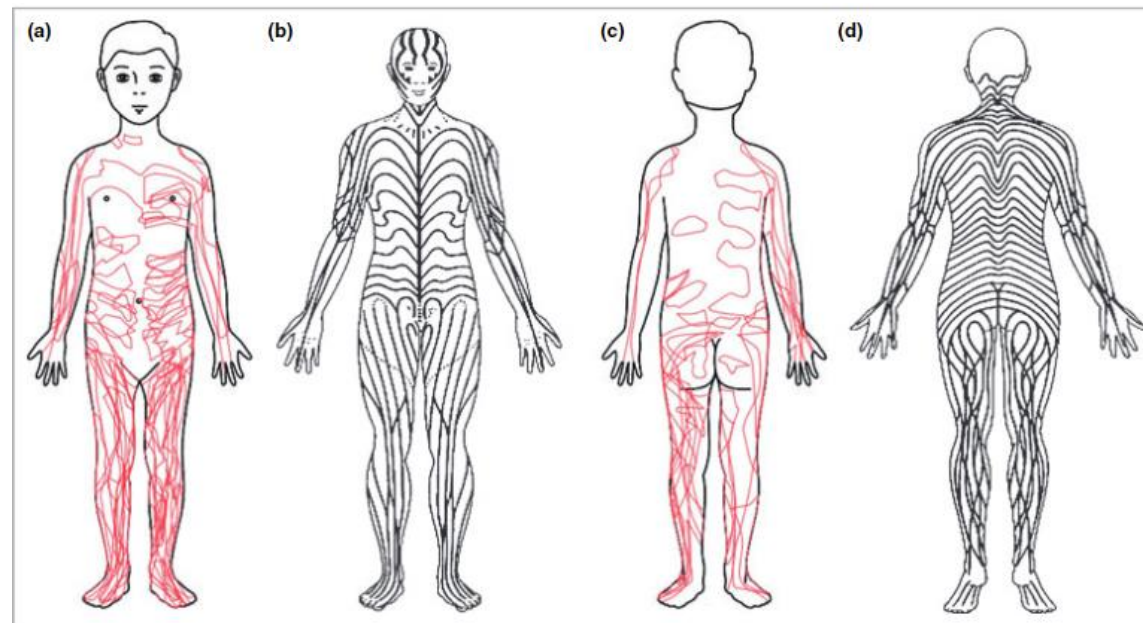
- 53% had the en coup de sabre subtype,
- 41% linear morphea on the trunk and/or limbs
- 6% a combination
- 85% were confined to one side of the body

Data indicated linear morphea follows the lines of Blaschko

Authors hypothesize that in these patients' susceptible cells are present in a mosaic state, exposure to a trigger may result in the condition



(Weibel 2008)



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## Using the Localized Scleroderma Cutaneous Assessment Tool (LoSCAT) to classify morphea by severity and identify clinically significant change

N.M. Teske and H.T. Jacobs

Department of Dermatology, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX, U.S.A.

**Linked Comment:** Torok. *Br J Dermatol* 2020; **182**:272–273.

### Summary

#### Correspondence

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#### Accepted for publication

1 May 2019

#### Funding sources

Funded by the James N. Gilliam, M.D., Chair in Dermatology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, created to enhance academic efforts in dermatology.

#### Conflicts of interest

None to declare.

DOI 10.1111/bjd.18097

**Background** Validated scoring measures in morphea can facilitate clinical trials. **Objectives** To ascertain the clinical significance of scores on the Localized Scleroderma Cutaneous Assessment Tool (LoSCAT) and identify the change in scores correlated with clinically meaningful change. **Methods** A prospective study of 120 participants from the Morphea in Adults and Children (MAC) cohort was undertaken. Physician's subjective assessments of severity and of improvement were completed at each visit. Receiver operating characteristic analysis determined LoSCAT scores corresponding with mild, moderate and severe disease, and absolute and percentage changes in scores corresponding with improved or worsened disease activity or damage. **Results** Mild, moderate and severe activity corresponded with LoSCAT activity index (LoSAI) scores of 0–4, 5–12 and 13 and over, and with Physician's Global Assessment of activity (PGA-A) scores of 0–10, 11–30 and 31 and over. Mild, moderate and severe damage corresponded with LoSCAT damage index (LoSDI) scores of 0–10, 11–15 and 16 and over, and with PGA of damage (PGA-D) scores of 0–18, 19–30 and 31 and over. Improved activity was best indicated by LoSAI decrease of at least 2 points or 27.5%, or PGA-A decrease of at least 6 points. Improved damage was best indicated by LoSDI score decrease of at least 2 points. Worsening activity was best indicated by LoSAI increase of at least 2 points or 19.5%, or PGA-A increase of at least 4 points. Worsening damage was best indicated by LoSDI increase of at least 2.5%. **Conclusions** The LoSCAT can be used to classify patients with morphea by disease severity, and identify clinically significant improvement in activity.

#### What's already known about this topic?

- The Localized Scleroderma Cutaneous Assessment Tool (LoSCAT) is a clinical tool that separately quantifies disease activity and damage in morphea, and prior studies have demonstrated validity and reliability.

#### What does this study add?

- The LoSCAT can be used to classify patients with morphea by disease severity into mild, moderate and severe groups, and to identify clinically significant improve-

# LoSCAT

## Localised Scleroderma Cutaneous Assessment Tool

## LoSAI & LoSDI

Validated clinical measure  
Accounts for evolution of over time

LoSAI & PGA-A - Activity  
LoSDI & PGA-D - Damage

(Teske 2020)

**LoSCAT**

Localized Scleroderma Cutaneous Assessment Tool

		LoSAI (Localized Scleroderma Skin Activity Index)			LoSDI (Localized Scleroderma Skin Damage Index)			
		New/Enlarged (past month)	Erythema	Induration (skin swelling at EDGE)	Dermal atrophy	Sub Q / Deep atrophy	Dyspigmentation (hyper or hypo)	Skin Thickness (at CENTER)
		0 = none 3 = N / E	0 = none 1 = pink 2 = red 3 = dark red / violaceous	0 = none 1 = mild 2 = moderate 3 = marked	0 = none 1 = shiny 2 = visible vessels 3 = cliff drop	0 = none 1 = flat 2 = concave 3 = marked	0 = none 1 = mild 2 = moderate 3 = marked	0 = none 1 = mild 2 = moderate 3 = marked
Scalp/Face								
Neck								
Chest								
Abdomen								
Upper Back								
Lower Back								
R T	Arm							
	Forearm							
	Hand							
	Thigh							
	Leg							
	Foot							
L T	Arm							
	Forearm							
	Hand							
	Thigh							
	Leg							
	Foot							

LoSAI \_\_\_\_\_

LoSDI \_\_\_\_\_

**PGA-A** (Physician Global Assessment of Disease Activity)

\_\_\_\_\_

(0=inactive)

(100=markedly active)

**PGA-D** (Physician Global Assessment of Disease Damage)

\_\_\_\_\_

(0=no damage)

(100=markedly damaged)

**LoSAI – Activity index**

- 0-4 Mild
- 5-12 Moderate
- ≥13 Severe

**LoSDI – Damage index**

- 0-10 Mild
- 11-15 Moderate
- ≥16 Severe

**Example scores over 2 years:**

- o LoSAI = 15; LoSDI = 9; PGA-A =80; PGA-D =70 (Dec 22)
- o LoSAI = 0 LoSDI = 12 ; PGA-A =80; PGA-D =70 (June 23)
- o LoSAI = 0 LoSDI = 13 ; PGA-A =0; PGA-D =70 (Sept 23)
- o LoSAI = 0 LoSDI = 13 ; PGA-A =0; PGA-D =70 (Dec 23)
- o LoSAI = 2 LoSDI = 13 ; PGA-A =0; PGA-D =70 (Mar 24)
- o LoSAI = 2 LoSDI = 10 ; PGA-A =0; PGA-D =50 (Jun 24)
- o LoSAI = 0 LoSDI = 9 ; PGA-A = 0; PGA-D =50 (today)

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OPEN ACCESS

## Consensus-based recommendations for the management of juvenile localised scleroderma

Francesco Zulian,<sup>1</sup> Roberta Culpo,<sup>1</sup> Francesca Sperotto,<sup>1</sup> Jordi Anton,<sup>2</sup> Tadej Avcin,<sup>3</sup> Eileen M Baildam,<sup>4</sup> Christina Boros,<sup>5</sup> Jeffrey Chaitow,<sup>6</sup> Tamàs Constantin,<sup>7</sup> Ozgur Kasapcopur,<sup>8</sup> Sheila Knupp Feitosa de Oliveira,<sup>9</sup> Clarissa A Pilkington,<sup>10</sup> Ricardo Russo,<sup>11</sup> Natasa Toplak,<sup>3</sup> Annet van Royen,<sup>12</sup> Claudia Saad Magalhães,<sup>13</sup> Sebastiaan J Vastert,<sup>12</sup> Nico M Wulffraat,<sup>12</sup> Ivan Foeldvari<sup>14</sup>

Ann Rheum Dis: first published as

(Zulian 2019)

Handling editor Josef S Smolen

► Additional material is published online only. To view please visit the journal online (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/>

### ABSTRACT

In 2012, a European initiative called Single Hub an Access point for paediatric Rheumatology in Europe (SHARE) was launched to optimise and disseminate diagnostic and management regimens in Europe for children and young adults with rheumatic diseases.

### Overarching principle

All children with suspected localised scleroderma should be referred to a specialised paediatric rheumatology centre.

- 1 LoSSI, which is part of LoSCAT, is a good clinical instrument to assess activity and severity in JLS lesions and is highly recommended in clinical practice.
- 2 LoSDI, which is part of LoSCAT, is a good clinical instrument to assess damage in JLS and is highly recommended in clinical practice.
- 3 Infrared thermography can be used to assess activity of the lesions in JLS, but skin atrophy can give false-positive results.
- 4 A specialised US imaging, using standardised assessment and colour Doppler, may be a useful tool for assessing disease activity, extent of JLS and response to treatment.
- 5 All patients with JLS at diagnosis and during follow-up should be carefully evaluated with a complete joint examination, including the temporomandibular joint.
- 6 MRI can be considered a useful tool to assess musculoskeletal involvement in JLS, especially when the lesion crosses the joint.
- 7 It is highly recommended that all patients with JLS involving face and head, with or without signs of neurological involvement, have an MRI of the head at the time of the diagnosis.
- 8 All patients with JLS involving face and head should undergo an orthodontic and maxillofacial evaluation at diagnosis and during follow-up.
- 9 Ophthalmological assessment, including screening for uveitis, is recommended at diagnosis for every patient with JLS, especially in those with skin lesions on the face and scalp.
- 10 Ophthalmological follow-up, including screening for uveitis, should be considered for every patient with JLS, especially in those with skin lesions on the face and scalp.



# Investgations

Clinical assessment – specialist centre

Photos

Assessment scoring - LoSCAT

Examine joints +/- MRI

Consider skin biopsy and bloods

Consider imaging eg MRI head

Consider thermography

Consider ophthalmology review

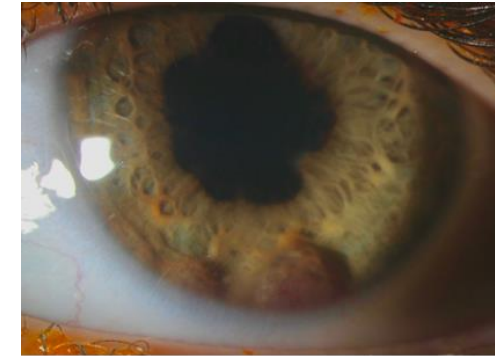
Consider maxillofacial or orthodontic review

25% may have extra cutaneous associations...

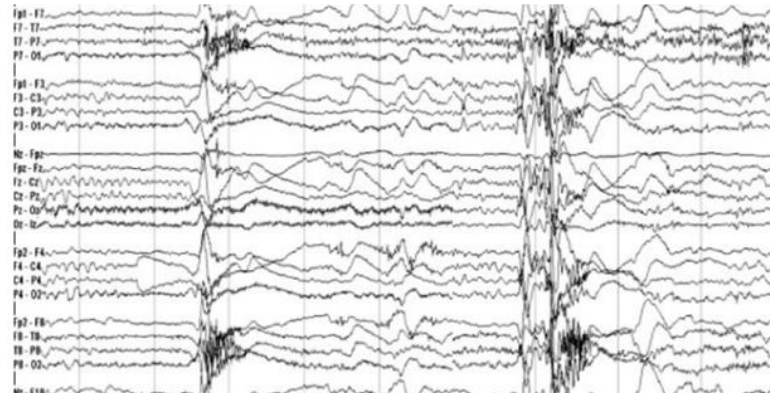
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*Image from Dermnetnz.org*



uveitis



Seizures

Arthritis

### Bloods

- Inflammatory markers – if elevated can monitor response
- Muscle enzymes – suggest muscle involvement
- Anti-nuclear antibodies (43-50%) may suggest extensive / severe disease
- Rheumatoid factor (15 – 25 %) extra-cutaneous features in LSc

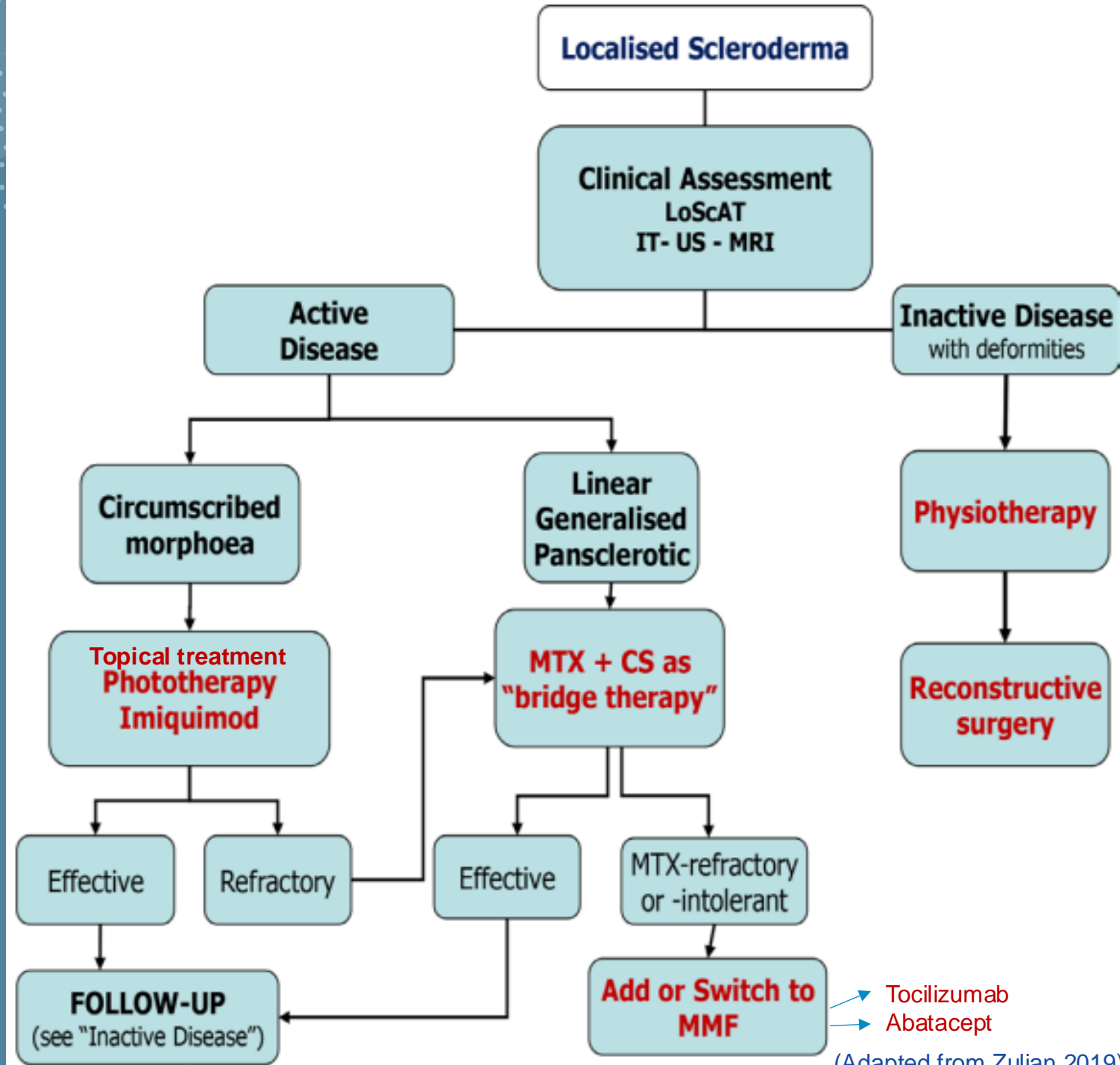
- **Deformities can occur**

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Affected foot - small, tight tendons. Affecting gait

Subcutaneous fat loss & joint contractures

# Management



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## A localised patch

- Aged 7
- Managed with super potent topical steroid
- Not increasing in size
- Inactive and symptomatic –topical tacrolimus

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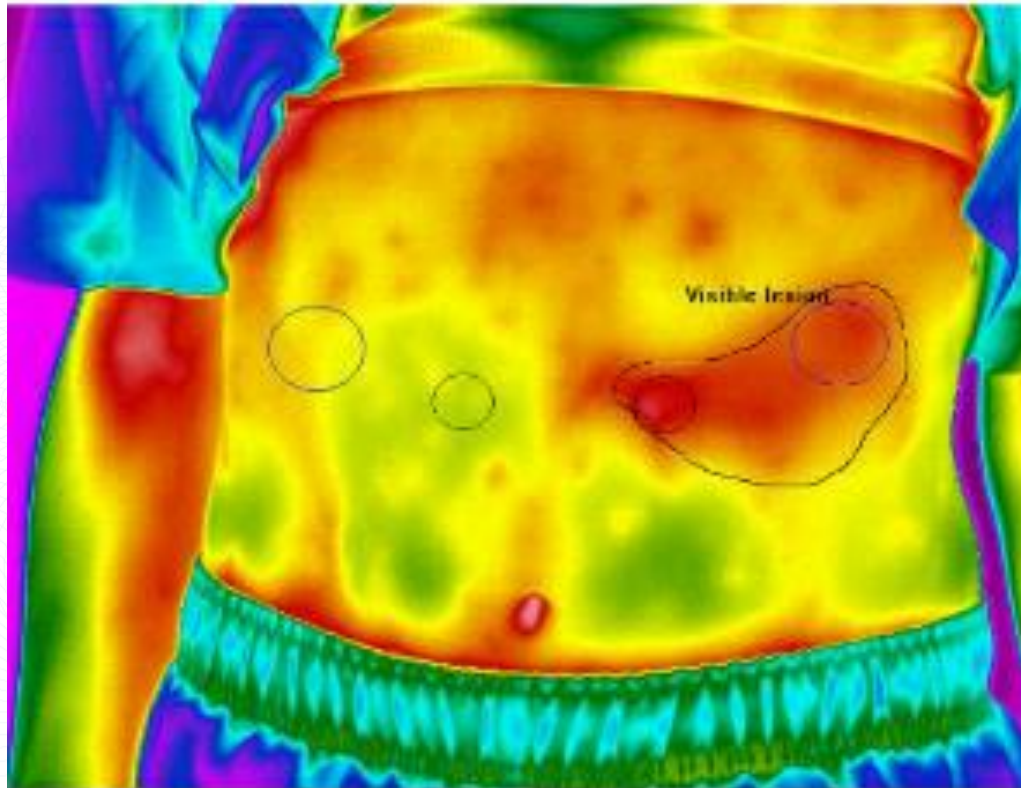
Aged 7

Aged 9

“The lesion is generally warmer than the contralateral area, the medial edge is the hottest area of the lesion. A small region drawn here measured 3.3 ° C warmer than the contralateral area . In the absence of any other explanation this does appear to indicate inflammation in this area”

PATIENT IMAGES REMOVED

- 6 years later
- Concern over erythema
- Thermography performed
- Considering MTX
- LoSDI 6



LoSDI (Localized Scleroderma Skin Damage Index)			
Dermal atrophy	Sub Q / Deep atrophy	Dyspigmentation (hyper or hypo)	Skin Thickness (at CENTER)
0 = none	0 = none	0 = none	0 = none
1 = shiny	1 = flat	1 = mild	1 = mild
2 = visible vessels	2 = concave	2 = moderate	2 = moderate
3 = cliff drop	3 = marked	3 = marked	3 = marked

## En coup de sabre

3 yrs old

8-week history pale  
hairless patch no better  
with oral terbinafine

MRI head; Right frontal  
thinning of calvarium  
consistent with linear  
scleroderma  
no brain abnormality

MTX for 2 years stopped  
due to intolerance

Topical Sebco

PATIENT IMAGES REMOVED



# 18 months later

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- LoSAI = 0 & LoSDI = 3 (06/22)
- LoSAI = 0 & LoSDI = 4 (09/23)
- LoSA1=0 today LosD1 = 4 today

## Extending plaque

9 yrs old

7-month history

No response to  
topical antifungals

FH autoimmune  
disease

Asthma

Hyperhidrosis

PATIENT IMAGES REMOVED

## PATIENT IMAGES REMOVED

Initial IV steroid - 3 months

MTX 15 months (nausea and neutropenia)

MMF from April 2024

LoSAI 15 - 0

- LoSAI = 15; LoSDI = 9; PGA-A =80; PGA-D =70 (Dec 22)
- LoSAI = 0 LoSDI = 12 ; PGA-A =80; PGA-D =70 (June 23)
- LoSAI = 0 LoSDI = 13 ; PGA-A =0; PGA-D =70 (Sept 23)
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- LoSAI = 2 LoSDI = 10 ; PGA-A =0; PGA-D =50 (Jun 24)
- LoSAI = 0 LoSDI = 9 ; PGA-A = 0; PGA-D =50 (today)

PATIENT IMAGES REMOVED

Referred aged 10 4-year history

MRI x3 shows microhaemorrhages in brain  
parenchyma

Coexisting Alopecia areata

MTX for 2 years and initial IV steroid

3 months after stopping treatment - relapse  
Switched to MMF for 2 years

## PATIENT IMAGES REMOVED

4 years later

No activity

Minimal extension

Some new alopecia to scalp and eyelashes

No relapse after stopping MMF

## **Extensive linear change**

PATIENT IMAGES REMOVED

14 yr old

Noticed incidentally

Present months

Keen athlete

PATIENT IMAGES REMOVED

6 months later

20 months of MTX  
Initial 5 months of IV pred

Nausea with MTX

Great anxiety about relapse

LoSAI 21 - 0

LoSDI 20 - 3

- September 2022: LoSAI 21 and LoSDI 20. PGA-A 80/100; PGA-D 80/100 (at diagnosis)
- March 2023: LoSAI 0 and LoSDI 8. PGA-A 0/100; PGA-D 50/100
- June 2023: LoSAI 0 and LoSDI 11. PGA-A 0/100; PGA-D 50/100
- September 2023: LoSAI 0 and LoSDI 10. PGA-A 0/100; PGA-D 50/100
- December 2023: LoSAI 0 and LoSDI 10. PGA-A 0/100; PGA-D 40/100
- March 2024: LoSAI 0 and LoSDI 8. PGA-A 0/100; PGA-D 30/100
- June 2024: LoSAI 0 and LoSDI 8. PGA-A 0/100; PGA-D 20/100
- Today: LoSAI 0 and LoSDI 3. PGA-A 0/100; PGA-D 20/100

# Extensive en coup de sabre

Seen aged 3 with 6 week history of increasing macule on forehead  
History of congenital nystagmus

Urgent biopsy and ophthalmology review

## Admitted within days for IV steroid

- Initial IV steroid 14 months
- MTX 18 months initially – stopped due to LFT's (Skin still active)
- Switched to MMF + Tocilizumab for 2 years with IV pred / oral pred intermittently
- Methotrexate added back in to allow reduction in steroids
- Currently in remission

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Skin biopsy scalp aged 3 – early  
linear scleroderma

MRI head; left frontal skull  
abnormality, with loss of scalp  
tissue and thinning of the  
underlying bone

Multiple foci calcification –  
progression on subsequent scans  
(neurology supported use of  
tocilizumab)

Fat transfers with plastic surgery  
Considering further surgery

Camouflage clinic  
Eyebrow tattooing  
Ophthalmology input  
Clinical psychology

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Aged 7

Aged 11

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# Psychosocial Impact

## Factors

- Self-image
- Bullying
- Fear and anxiety – progression / recurrence
- Burden of treatment – needles , blood tests, medication
- Visits – school attendance

## Tools

- Health psychology
- Scores – GAD, CDLQI, PHQ
- Art therapy
- Camouflage make up clinic
- MDT team input

## PHQ-9 modified for Adolescents (PHQ-A)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Clinician: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** How often have you been bothered by each of the following symptoms during the past **two weeks**? For each symptom put an "X" in the box beneath the answer that best describes how you have been feeling.

	(0) Not at all	(1) Several days	(2) More than	(3) Nearly every
1. Feeling down, depressed, irritable, or hopeless?				
2. Little interest or pleasure in doing things?				
3. Trouble falling asleep, staying asleep, or sleeping too much?				
4. Poor appetite, weight loss, or overeating?				
5. Feeling tired, or having little energy?				
6. Feeling bad about yourself – or feeling guilty or worthless?				

**CHILDREN'S DERMATOLOGY LIFE QUALITY INDEX**

Hospital No: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Diagnosis: \_\_\_\_\_ CDLQI SCORE:

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The aim of this questionnaire is to measure how much your skin problem has affected you OVER THE LAST WEEK. Please tick ✓ one box for each question.

1. Over the last week, how itchy, "scratchy", sore or painful has your skin been? Very much   
Quite a lot   
Only a little   
Not at all

2. Over the last week, how embarrassed or self-conscious, upset or sad have you been because of your skin? Very much   
Quite a lot   
Only a little   
Not at all

## Hospital Anxiety and Depression (HAD) Scale

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Trial No:

Hospital: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Completion:

Doctors are aware that emotions play an important part in most illnesses and will be able to help you more.

This questionnaire is designed to help your doctor to know how you feel. Tick the opposite the reply which comes closest to how you have been feeling.

Don't take too long over your replies; your immediate reaction to each question is the thought-out response.

**Tick only one box in each row.**

I feel tense or 'wound up':

Most of the time .....

A lot of the time .....



Children and young people's health psychology - Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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