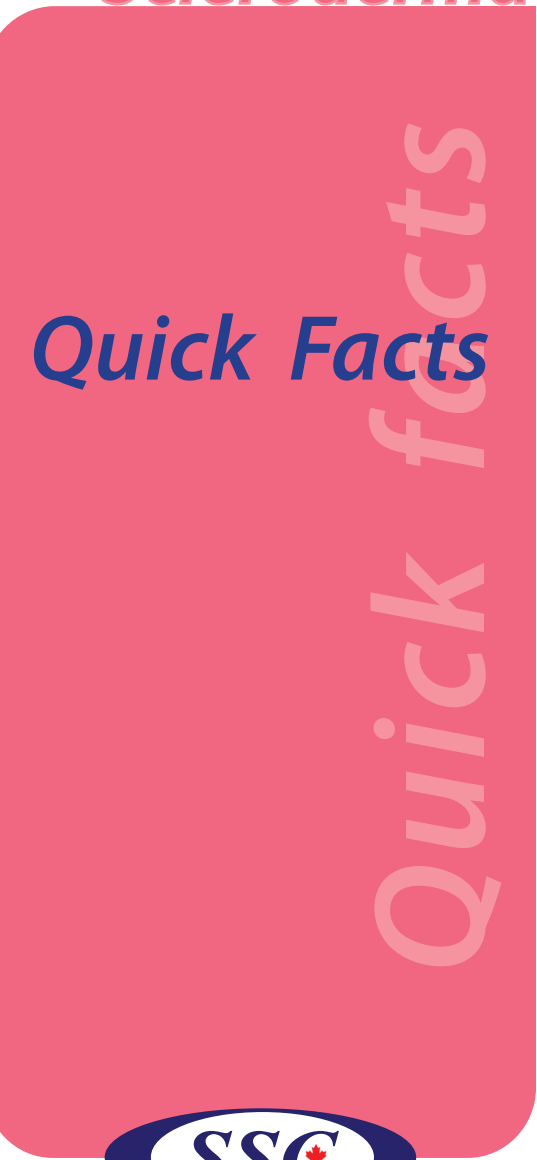


Scleroderma



Scleroderma Society of Canada



Scleroderma Society of Canada

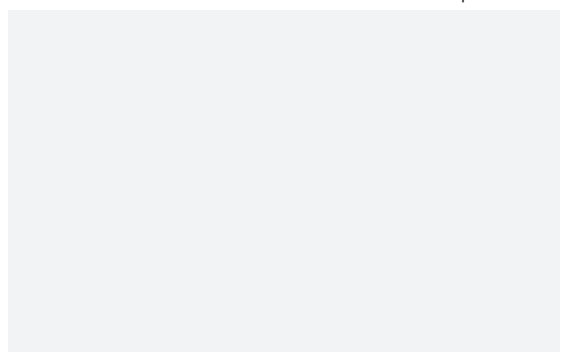
1240 Tara Drive
Ottawa, ON K2C 2H5

Toll Free: 1-866-279-0632
Fax: (403) 452-9125
Email: sclero_ca@yahoo.ca
Website: www.scleroderma.ca

We would like to thank **Dr. S. Edworthy, FRCPC** for his advice with this information pamphlet.

DISCLAIMER: THIS PAMPHLET IS MEANT TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON SCLERODERMA AND IS NOT MEANT TO BE USED AS A DIAGNOSTIC TOOL OR TO SUGGEST TREATMENT OR MEDICATIONS. ALWAYS CONSULT YOUR PHYSICIAN REGARDING DETAILS OF SYMPTOMS, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT.

Your Local Scleroderma Group



The Scleroderma Society of Canada

- is a registered charity
- is the national level advocacy for those with scleroderma
- supports provincial and regional scleroderma groups in Canada
- provides information and support for people with scleroderma
- promotes public awareness of scleroderma
- supports scleroderma research and seeks funding for it.

Membership in the Scleroderma Society of Canada is available by joining a provincial or regional scleroderma organization.

Please contact the Scleroderma Society of Canada for further information regarding membership.

If donations are made in memoriam, please include the following information:

Donation made in memory of _____

Contact person/Next of kin: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

What is SCLERODERMA?

Scleroderma is a chronic connective tissue disorder, which literally means “hard skin.” It is often a life-threatening disease.

Causes

- definitive cause is not known
- some evidence of
 - a genetic predisposition in some studies
 - autoimmunity
 - an infectious cause
 - environmental triggers

It attacks

- the immune system
- body tissue – skin, muscles, ligaments
- internal organs – lungs, heart, kidneys, esophagus and intestines
- blood vessels – vascular system

This results in

- overproduction of collagen
- thickening, hardening and scarring of the skin
- blood vessels unable to supply sufficient blood to many body parts
- scarring of internal organs

Early symptoms could include

- muscle weakness and pain
- stiffness and pain in joints
- swelling and thickening of skin
- swallowing difficulties
- sensitivity to cold in fingers and toes
- severe fatigue
- breathing difficulties
- joint and bone aching

Note: not all of the above symptoms would indicate scleroderma.

Treatments

- no known cure
- treatments target specific symptoms
- treatments may include
 - steroids
 - nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
 - immunosuppressants
 - antibiotics
 - some alternative and complementary therapies

Who is affected?

- more prevalent than muscular dystrophy or multiple sclerosis
- 4 out of 5 affected are women between 30 – 50 years old
- 2 to 3 out of 10,000 persons is estimated to be affected

scleroderma

Scleroderma Society of Canada A Registered Charity

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

I am interested in _____ making a donation _____ information on scleroderma _____ information on membership

Tax receipts will be issued. If donations are made in memoriam, please see reverse side.

All donations are greatly appreciated and are dedicated to raising public awareness and to support research.