Background and aims Systemic Sclerosis (SSc) is a chronic progressive autoimmune disease. Assessment of skin fibrosis based on modified Rodnan’s skin score (mRSS) are important to determining clinical response and prognosis. Several biomarkers may potential to check skin fibrosis in SSc patients, such as B-cell Activating Factor (BAFF), Pro-collagen Type-I Terminal Pro-peptide (P1NP), and sCD40L which believed playing role in fibrosis cascade. The aim of study is to evaluate the correlation levels of BAFF, P1NP and sCD40L serum with mRSS in SSc.

Methods This is a cross-sectional study enrolled SSc patients in Rheumatology clinic Hasan Sadikin Hospital Bandung-Indonesia, from Nov 2015 to July 2016. All subjects performed mRSS measurement and blood tests. Data analysed by Rank-Spearman correlation.

Results There are 42 subjects, mean age 40+10 years old, 40 (95.2%) are female, 24 (57.1%) are limited type SSc and 18 (42.9%) are diffuse type SSc. Thirty-nine (92.9%) subjects treated with methotrexate, 29 (69%) subjects with corticosteroid, and 4 (9.5%) subjects with cyclophosphamide. The mean level of BAFF was 1090±386 pg/mL, the mean level of sCD40L was 6858±2665 pg/mL, and the mean level of P1NP was 51.5±25.7 ng/ml. The median of mRSS was 17 (5-36).

There are a significant correlation between mRSS and BAFF serum (r=0.184; p=0.318), there is no significant correlation between mRSS and sCD40L serum (r=0.184; p=0.318).

Conclusions Our study found a significant correlation between BAFF and mRSS, and no significant correlation between sCD40L serum with mRSS in SSc patients.

Background and aims This document presents the results of a study performed to assess the Health-related Quality of Life (HRQOL), emotionality and day-to-day problem solving and coping in lupus patients, compared to a control sample. This research is intended to analyse how symptoms affect to patients and what is the level of impairment associated to the disease perceived by them.

Methods The assessment was carried out by examining 35 lupus-diagnosed patients living in Madrid. Three questionnaires were used: SF-36 for measuring HRQOL, PANAS for quantifying positive and negative affect, ISAP for analysing problem solving and coping; additionally, a structured interview (LUPAM) to evaluate pain level and perceived level of impairment.

Results Main results found were that HRQOL level in lupus patients is lower than the average population, finding out differences also in the “past week Negative Affect” dimension. Nevertheless, statistically significant discrepancies between patient and control samples regarding to Problem Solving and Coping were not found.

Conclusions The study proves that patients perceive lupus and lupus-related disability in a worse manner depending on the disease phase, while there are some possible solutions to improve this perception such as the development of chronic pain programs.