LIFE WITH SCLERODERMA MAKES EVERYTHING HARDER:

- Internal organs
- Breathing
- Swallowing
- Walking
- Skin
- Hands
- Speaking
- Smiling
- Eating
- Holding objects
- Household chores
- Buttoning shirts
- Tying shoes
- Brushing teeth
- Opening mouth

Help the Scleroderma Foundation Michigan Chapter make things easier for the community and get closer to a cure.

Every donation makes an impact.

The Scleroderma Foundation Michigan Chapter was founded on a three-fold mission of support, education and research. We continue to build upon that mission to this day.

SCLERODERMA FOUNDATION
SUPPORT · EDUCATION · RESEARCH
MICHIGAN CHAPTER

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Hand in hand, we can handle scleroderma.

WHAT IS SCLERODERMA?

Scleroderma is a chronic autoimmune connective tissue disease in which the body's immune system attacks its own tissues. Inflammation and damage result.

In Latin, the word "scleroderma" means "hard skin." The disease's skin thickening is caused by an overproduction of collagen, the basic component of scar tissue. This leads to a buildup of excess collagen, called fibrosis. Systemic scleroderma can cause fibrosis in the heart, lungs and muscles that line the gastrointestinal (GI) tract.

Scleroderma ranges in severity from mild to life-threatening. Although medication can slow the disease's progression and relieve symptoms, there is no known cure.

WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF SCLERODERMA?

There are two basic forms of scleroderma:

Localized
Localized scleroderma affects a local area of skin either in patches (morphea), in a line down an arm or leg (linear), or in a line down the forehead (linear en coup de sabre). The underlying problem is the overproduction of collagen (scar tissue) in the involved areas of skin.

Systemic
Systemic scleroderma affects the internal organs or internal systems of the body as well as the skin. In this form, there are three processes at work: blood vessel abnormalities, fibrosis (the overproduction of collagen), and immune system dysfunction (autoimmunity).

WHO GETS SCLERODERMA?

Scleroderma has no known cause or cure, but research shows certain groups may be more susceptible to the disease:

- Women are more likely to get scleroderma. An estimated 80% of individuals affected are women between the ages of 30 and 50.
- Systemic scleroderma is more common among individuals whose family members have other autoimmune diseases (such as lupus). In most cases, however, scleroderma itself does not run in families.
- The prevalence of scleroderma is 13 times higher in first-degree relatives of individuals with scleroderma than in the general population.
- Localized scleroderma is more common in children and adults, but both forms of scleroderma can occur at any age.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Some Michigan clinics have reported seeing as many as **12 newly diagnosed scleroderma patients per week.**
- On average, **9,900 people per year** in the United States will be diagnosed.
- About **296 people in Michigan** will be diagnosed with scleroderma this year.

Scleroderma was first diagnosed in 1754

OVER 10,000
Michiganders are affected by scleroderma

1 in 906 people
HAVE SCLERODERMA

80% of patients are FEMALE

{30-50
age most patients are diagnosed }

It takes 3 to 5 YEARS to get diagnosed

$460 million
direct cost of annual treatment

$1.5 billion
estimated impact of scleroderma in the U.S. every year