



## MECHANICAL VENTILATION FOR INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE BY SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS WITH CREST SYNDROME. PRESENTATION OF A CLINICAL CASE

<b>Katherine Esparza Maquilón*</b>	Medical Resident ICU At "Hospital General IESS Ibarra – Ecuador. *Corresponding Author
<b>Antonio Miguel Ornes Rodriguez</b>	Intensivist Doctor At "Hospital General IESS Ibarra – Ecuador
<b>Diana Mercedes Bombón Salazar</b>	Medical Resident ICU At "Hospital General IESS Ibarra – Ecuador
<b>Daniela Macarena Mediavilla Paredes</b>	Medical Resident ICU At "Hospital General IESS Ibarra – Ecuador
<b>Luis Gustavo Mediavilla Sevilla</b>	Medical Resident "IME /Ibarra – Ecuador/
<b>Pablo Gabriel Cevallos Morejón</b>	Medical Resident ICU At "Hospital General IESS Ibarra – Ecuador
<b>Zuleira Vanessa Torres Jaramillo</b>	Medical Resident At "Hospital General IESS Ibarra – Ecuador
<b>Ligia Elena Echeverría Serrano</b>	Medical Resident At "Hospital Gineco Obstetrico Nueva Aurora" / Quito – Ecuador

### ABSTRACT

**INTRODUCTION.** Interstitial lung disease (ILD) with acute respiratory failure needs ventilatory support poorly documented. One of the interstitial diseases known is the Systemic sclerosis, its advanced stages develop CREST syndrome. Faverio P, et al. (2016) suggested do not close the door to these patients and open the correct protocol, criticizing the little value that the scientific community concede to invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV).

**CASE REPORT.** 85-year-old male is internalized in critical care unit by pneumonia, the complementary evaluation shows a systemic sclerosis disease with CREST syndrome and it is confirmed by elevation of anti-centromere antibody and positive skin biopsy. Tomography highlights pneumonic consolidation plus interstitial lung involvement and echocardiography reveals pulmonary hypertension. The management is done with IMV, keeping the goal of driving pressure less than 15 as lung protection, recovering respiratory function in 3 weeks. Discussion. The evidence is too insufficient to establish the best decision on IMV to the management of ILD.

**KEYWORDS :** Interstitial lung disease (IDL), invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV), calcinosis, Raynaud phenomenon, esophageal dysmotility, sclerodactyly, and telangiectasia (CREST), pulmonary hypertension (PH).

### INTRODUCTION

Interstitial lung disease (ILD) with acute respiratory failure needs an intensive management and ventilatory support poorly documented. One of the interstitial diseases known is the Systemic sclerosis, it is an infrequent disease with a global prevalence of 1 per 10,000 people and 80% involve the lung, complicating up to 25% with ILD and almost 15% with pulmonary hypertension (PH), advanced stages develop CREST syndrome, it is very infrequent situation, characterized by Calcinosis, Raynaud's phenomenon, Esophageal dysmotility, sclerodactyly, and Telangiectasia. (4-7)

Faverio P, et al. (2016) suggested do not close the door to these patients and open the correct protocol, criticizing the little value that the scientific community concede to invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV) in ILD. Non-invasive ventilation provides benefits but delays the opportunity to offer IMV at the right time. (6)

### CASE REPORT.

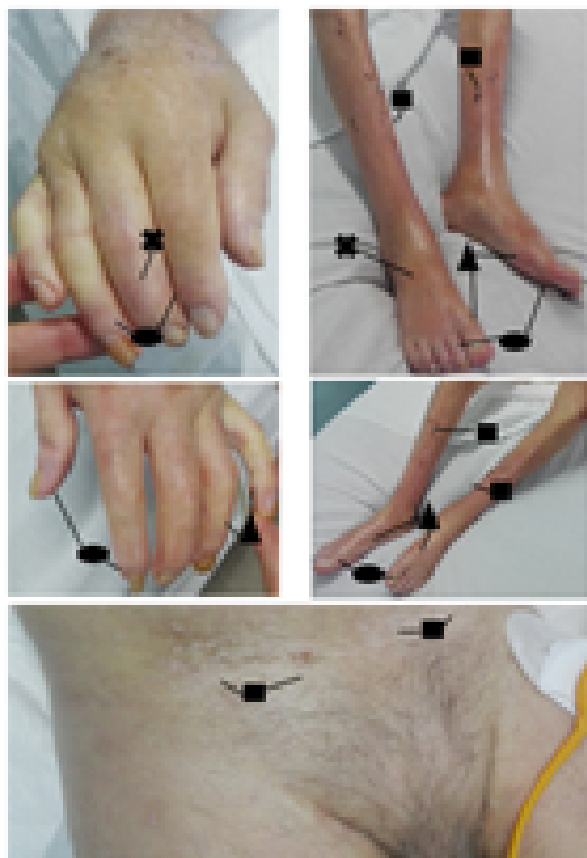
85-year-old male with heart failure NYHA II, hypothyroidism, progressive dyspnea and immunosuppressive treatment with prednisone due to generalized pruritus, excoriations and joint stiffness without diagnosis. This patient is internalized in critical care unit by pneumonia FINE V and CURB 3, the

complementary evaluation shows a systemic sclerosis disease by CREST syndrome (Figure 1) and it is confirmed by elevation of anti-centromere antibody and positive skin biopsy.

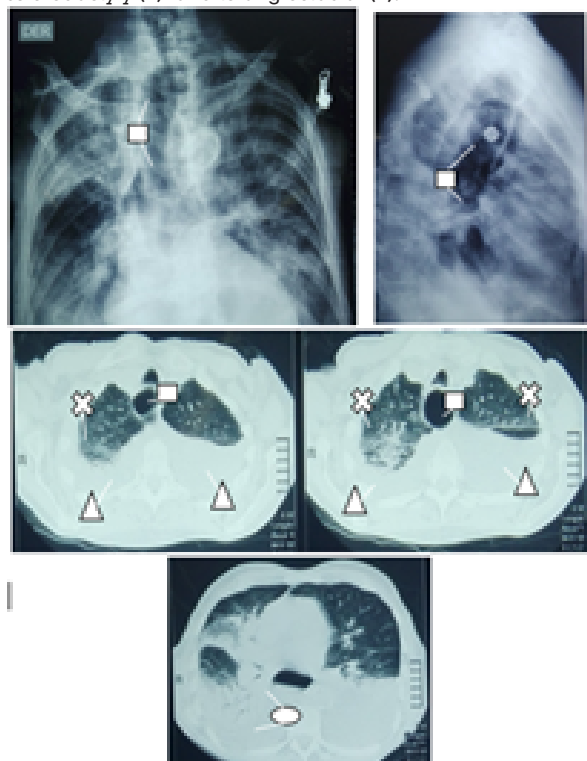
Pulmonary tomography (Figure 2) highlights right basal pneumonic consolidation and massive bilateral pleural effusion that suppress the generalized reticular pattern shown in interstitial lung involvement, also reveals the esophagomegaly characteristic of CREST syndrome.

Observation on echocardiography reveals dilation of the right atrium and hypertrophy of the right ventricle, showing furthermore pulmonary hypertension at 35mmhg.

The management is done with IMV displaying low compliance and high pulmonary resistance. Bronchodilators administration and drainage of the pleural effusion allow the tolerance of IMV with initial use of 0.8 FIO<sub>2</sub>, PEEP: 8 and tidal volume: 6cc/kg, keeping the goal of driving pressure less than 15 as protection of the lung. Several therapeutics are taken as Antibiotic and prednisone administration, also mycophenolate is suggested. Respiratory function was recovered in 3 weeks, and discharge was achieved from critical care unit, the survival was reported for more than 1 year.



**Figure 1:** calcinosis and morphea skin (■), raynaud (▲), sclerodactyly (●) and telangiectasia (✕).



**Figure 2:** esophagomegaly (□), pleural effusion (▲), pneumonic consolidation (○) and generalized reticular pattern (✕).

## DISCUSSION.

This case reports discusses the prognostic criteria described for ILD in the studies by Zafrani L, et al. and El-Abdeen A, et al.

These criteria applied in this patient estimate risk of mortality that exceeds 100% in hospitalization and higher risk of mortality per year, they mention the IMV increases the mortality when it is used in ILD. (1-2)

Zafrani L, et al. show patients with IMV having a driving pressure average of 17, which may contribute to higher mortality. (1, 8)

Currently, there is a debate on IMV for the management of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), which shows histopathological patterns as to ILD in some cases. (1, 9)

IMV techniques have been proposed to reduce pulmonary injury and offer greater diffusion of oxygen from the alveoli, one of the proposals is a driving pressure lower than 15, offering a high PEEP and low tidal volume. Patients with ILD and PH are usually excluded from these studies. (8, 10)

The evidence is too insufficient to establish the best decision on IMV to management of ILD.

In this 85-year-old patient with ILD due to systemic sclerosis with CREST syndrome, early IMV keeping pulmonary protection parameters as driving pressure lower than 15, PEEP 8 and low tidal volume of 6 cc/kg, could be related to the change in the survival prognosis.

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