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Prevalence of pulmonary hypertension in pulmonary sarcoidosis: the first large European prospective study

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The prevalence of pulmonary hypertension in sarcoidosis seems to differ between ethnicities and was never investigated in a Caucasian cohort. This study shows a prevalence of 3% in a Caucasian cohort, significantly lower compared to other ethnicities. <http://bit.ly/2kRMrap>

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To the Editor:

Sarcoidosis is a systemic disease of an unknown aetiology, in which noncaseating granulomas are formed in one or multiple organs, with pulmonary involvement in >90% of the sarcoidosis patients [1]. Pulmonary hypertension (PH), defined as a mean pulmonary artery pressure of ≥ 25 mmHg by right heart catheterisation (RHC) [2], is a well recognised complication of sarcoidosis, associated with significant increase in mortality [3, 4]. Although the first case of PH in sarcoidosis was described in 1949 [5], the exact prevalence remains unclear. Only three studies have previously investigated the PH prevalence independently of suggestive symptoms and signs for PH, resulting in prevalence rates of 5.7%, 14% and 20.8% [6–8]. In patients with complaints suggestive of PH or those awaiting lung transplant, rates of PH up to 79% have been reported [9–11]. Unfortunately, most studies are retrospective and have used an echocardiographic definition for PH (increased right ventricular systolic pressure (RVSP) of ≥ 40 mmHg), lacking RHC as gold standard.