

13. Article Title: “Diagnostic Pathway to Sarcoidosis”

Lead Author: Marc Judson, MD

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Patients with sarcoidosis often have symptoms of the disease for months to years before the correct diagnosis is made. On many occasions, sarcoidosis is misdiagnosed as another condition for a long period of time. The ACCESS investigators tried to determine how long it took doctors to diagnose sarcoidosis after the patient’s symptoms began. The investigators also determined how long it took to make the diagnosis of sarcoidosis after the patient made the first visit to a doctor for a problem related to sarcoidosis. It was found that almost half the time, it took more than six months after the first doctor visit (or 4 or more doctor visits) for the diagnosis of sarcoidosis to be made. In almost 20% of patients, it took more than a year for the diagnosis to be correctly made. Patients who had sarcoidosis of the skin were diagnosed more quickly than patients who did not have sarcoidosis of the skin. When the lungs were involved, it took longer for the diagnosis to be made than it did for the average patient. The likely reason that skin sarcoidosis was diagnosed quickly is because a skin biopsy is often done early if there is an abnormal skin lesion. In addition, lung sarcoidosis is often misdiagnosed as another lung condition such as asthma, bronchitis, or pneumonia.