

14. Article Title: “Sarcoidosis: Social Predictors of Severity at Presentation”

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In many chronic illnesses, how much the disease affects a person may be related to social factors, such as a person’s income, health insurance, age, race, or sex. ACCESS examined the impact of these social factors in sarcoidosis. ACCESS found that lower income, the lack of private or Medicare health insurance, and other barriers to care were associated with the amount of sarcoidosis involvement in study participants, as were race, sex, and age. ACCESS also found that sarcoidosis patients with lower incomes improved less over 2 years in comparison to those study patients with greater incomes.

African-Americans were more likely to have severe disease. Women were more likely than men to report more severe symptoms. Older individuals were more likely to have severe disease based on lab testing and symptoms that they reported. In conclusion, lack of insurance, low income and other financial barriers to medical care are related to sarcoidosis severity, even after considering other factors such as race, sex, and age.