

## SUPPLEMENTARY DATA S1

### Data S1. Patients exposure outcome (PEO) framework for eligibility of research question.

The **PEO** question format is used for qualitative research questions. Questions based on this format identify three concepts: (1) **P**opulation, (2) **E**xposure, and (3) **O**utcome(s).

Questions are outlined below:

- In Systemic Sclerosis (SSc) patients (P), which is the prevalence (O) of BAL execution (E)?
- In Systemic Sclerosis (SSc) patients with secondary interstitial lung disease (ILD) (P), which is the prevalence (O) of BAL execution (E)?
- Which diagnostic criteria (O) were used in SSc-ILD patients (P), to define the presence of alveolitis at BAL (E)?
- In SSc-ILD patients (P), which is the prevalence (O) of alveolitis features at BAL (E)?
- In SSc-ILD patients (P), the presence of positive BAL (E) determines lung functional test alteration (O)?
- In SSc-ILD patients (P), the presence of positive BAL(E) determines FVC or FEV1 decrease (O)?
- In SSc-ILD patients (P), the presence of positive BAL (E) determines DLCO decrease (O)?
- In SSc-ILD patients (P), the presence of positive BAL (E) is associated to previous immunosuppressive treatment (O)?
- In SSc-ILD patients (P), the presence of positive BAL (E) determines worsening on prognosis (O)?
- In SSc-ILD patients (P), the presence of positive BAL (E) determines radiological progression of lesions in follow up (O)?
- In SSc-ILD patients (P), the presence of positive BAL (E) determines clinical worsening (O)?
- In SSc-ILD patients (P), the presence of positive BAL (E) determines progressive functional deterioration (O)?
- In SSc-ILD patients (P), the presence of positive BAL (E) determines death for respiratory failure (O)?
- In SSc-ILD patients (P), the presence of positive BAL (E) is treated with specific therapy (O)?
- In SSc-ILD patients (P), the presence of positive BAL (E) is treated with immunosuppressive therapy (O)?