

CORRESPONDENCE

Course and prognosis of sarcoidosis in African-Americans versus Caucasians

From the authors:

In response to the letter from REICH [1], we are far from believing that sarcoidosis mortality is higher in African-Americans than in Caucasians, since we stated that mortality rates are reported to be similar among races [2]. We therefore agree with J.M. Reich's qualification that findings of higher age-adjusted mortality rates reported among African-Americans than among Caucasians in the USA [3] reflect those of sarcoidosis incidence [4]. With reference to ethnic differences in disease severity, there is a general consensus from the review of large series that sarcoidosis in Blacks is more severe, and that Whites are more likely to present with asymptomatic disease [5]. As an example, the paper of GIDEON and MANNINO [3] reported that mortality rate in African-Americans peaked about 2 decades earlier than in Caucasians (ages 45–54 versus 75–84 yrs). This finding is taken as a further support of the notion that sarcoidosis in African-Americans has an earlier onset and a more aggressive course [4].

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References

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