



2025 Dynamic Research Grant

Sara Stern, MD

University of Utah

Project Title: CClassificAtion cRlteria For chlldhood onsEt sjögRen – CLARIFIER

Childhood-onset Sjögren (cSjD) presents differently than adult-onset disease. Previous studies have shown that the current adult classification criteria perform poorly in children. Therefore, child centric classification criteria are needed. Classification criteria are vitally important for research since they standardize the population that could fit into research studies. To fill this knowledge gap, we have formed an international collaborative network comprising four of the largest pediatric research groups in the world will develop and test a classification criteria for cSjD. Our project design includes five stages.

Stage 1: Candidate item generation

The goal of Stage 1 is to generate a comprehensive and exhaustive list of all potential items that could be considered for inclusion in criteria.

Stage 2: Candidate item reduction

The objective of this stage is to select the refined candidate items to be used in the classification criteria, to ensure the high sensitivity and specificity for a diagnosis of cSjD.

Stage 3: Criteria definition and weighting

In this stage, the refined criteria items will be organized and finalized for definition and weighting.

Stage 4: Generation of a multi-center derivation cohort of cSjD cases and comparators and refinement of candidate preliminary classification criteria.

During this stage, a new large cohort dataset with global representation will be generated.

Stage 5: Validation of the final classification criteria for cSjD

An independent validation dataset from the CHildhood Onset Sjögren disease Outcomes Network (CHOSON) study will be used for the validation of the classification criteria developed in stage 4. CHOSON is a primarily prospective observational, long-term international registry for cSjD that started recruiting in 2023 through the generous support by the Sjögren's Foundation and has 70 current participants with a goal of over 200.