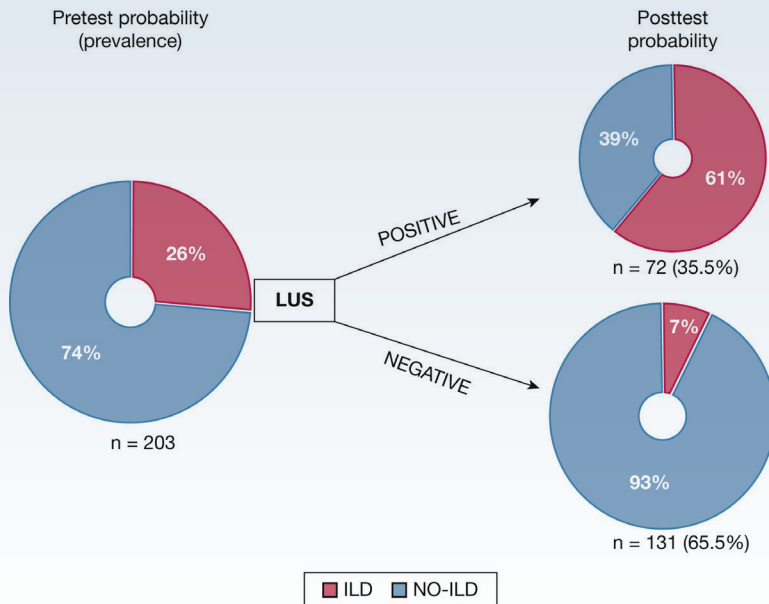


Efficacy of Lung Ultrasound in Diagnosis of Interstitial Lung Disease in Asymptomatic Patients With Rheumatoid Arthritis

STUDY DESIGN

- Multicenter, cross-sectional study of 203 patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) who were not exhibiting respiratory symptoms
- Rheumatology examination, including serologies, spirometry with diffusing capacity of the lungs for carbon monoxide, and high-resolution CT (HRCT) scan acquired on all participants
- Based on a validated protocol, lung ultrasound (LUS) ≥ 5 (B-line score) considered positive for interstitial lung disease (ILD)

RESULTS



53 patients (26.1%) had ILD confirmed on HRCT scan.

- 72 patients (35.4%) had a positive LUS result
- 93.1% negative predictive value (NPV)
- 61.1% positive predictive value
- Area under the curve for LUS was 0.82 (95% CI, 0.76-0.88)

This study shows the promise of LUS as a low-cost point-of-care tool with a high NPV, and it is emerging as a valuable method for ruling out ILD in asymptomatic patients with RA.