

<b>Table 1: Demographic and clinical characteristics of study groups.</b>				
	<b>Control group (20 n.)</b>	<b>CTD groups</b>		<b>P value</b>
		<b>CTD only group (20 n.)</b>	<b>CTD+ILD group (20 n.)</b>	
<b>Age (years)</b>	12±2.4	13±2.2	11.9±3.5	0.3847
<b>n. of Female</b>	10 (50%)	12 (60%)	13 (65%)	0.09072
<b>Duration of CTD (years)</b>	-----	3.2±2.5	2.6±1.2	0.3394
<b>Duration of ILD (years)</b>	-----	-----	Med.1 y. (min 0 m.; max 3y.)	-----
<b>CTD subgroup</b>				
<b>JSLE</b>	-----	8 (40%)	10 (50%)	0.97036
<b>JRA</b>	-----	5 (25%)	5 (25%)	0.97036
<b>JDM</b>	-----	1 (5%)	0 (0%)	0.97036
<b>JSSc</b>	-----	2 (10%)	1 (5%)	0.97036
<b>JMCTD</b>	-----	4 (20%)	4 (20%)	0.97036
<b>Immunosuppressive agents at the baseline visit</b>				
<b>Prednisone &gt; 5 mg</b>	-----	14 (70%)	16 (80%)	0.1024
<b>Methotrexate</b>	-----	7 (35%)	9 (45%)	0.1489
<b>Azathioprine</b>	-----	2 (10%)	1 (5%)	0.1794
<b>cyclophosphamide</b>	-----	3 (15%)	3 (15%)	1
<p><i>JRA: juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, JSLE: juvenile systemic lupus erythematosus, JSSc: juvenile systemic sclerosis, JDM: juvenile dermatomyositis, JMCTD: juvenile mixed connective tissue disease.</i></p> <p><i>One-way ANOVA, Chi-Square, and Paired sample T tests, P &gt; 0.05: no significant differences, P &lt; 0.05: significant differences, P &lt; 0.001: highly significant differences.</i></p>				

**Table 2: Comparison of Krebs von den Lungen-6 levels among groups.**

	<b>KL-6 levels (U/mL)</b>		
	<b>Min-max</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>P value</b>
<i>Control group</i>	32.8-62.4	52.3	< 0.05 @ #
<i>CTD only group</i>	35.8-68.5	56.7	< 0.05 @ #
<i>mildILD subgroup</i>	58.4-100.5	72.2	< 0.05 * \$ #
<i>severeILD subgroup</i>	76.1- 180.8	102.7	< 0.05 * \$ @
<p><i>Kruskal-Wallis and Mann-Whitney U tests</i></p> <p>* significant differences vs control group,</p> <p>\$ significant differences vs CTD group</p> <p>@ significant differences vs mildILD group).</p> <p># significant differences vs severeILD group).</p>			

<b>Table 3: Pulmonary function test outcomes.</b>				
<b>Variable</b>	<b>CTD only group (20 n.)</b>	<b>CTD+ILD group</b>		<b>P value</b>
		<b>mildILD (12 n.)</b>	<b>severeILD (8 n.)</b>	
<b><i>FVC, % predicted</i></b>	<i>95±7</i>	<i>72±7*</i>	<i>49±8***</i>	<b><i>0.0000</i></b>
<b><i>FEV1, % predicted</i></b>	<i>101±7</i>	<i>77±10*</i>	<i>55±5***</i>	<b><i>0.0000</i></b>
<p><i>One-way ANOVA, least significant difference (LSD):</i></p> <p><i>P &gt; 0.05: no significant differences, P &lt; 0.05: significant differences, P &lt; 0.001: highly significant differences, (* Vs CTD only group, ** Vs mildILD group).</i></p>				