

# What is Axial Spondyloarthritis?

**Axial Spondyloarthritis (axSpA) is a painful but treatable chronic inflammatory disease that primarily affects the spine and sacroiliac joints (SIJs)<sup>1</sup>**

**axSpA refers to a category of diseases that includes nr-axSpA and AS**

**Leading symptom:**

Inflammatory back pain that improves with exercise, but not with rest<sup>1</sup>

**Disease onset:**

Usually before the age of 45, often in the 20s<sup>3,4</sup>

**Prevalence:**

Similar to Rheumatoid Arthritis, 0.2-1.4% of adults have axSpA<sup>3,5,6</sup>

**axSpA is equally common in both Men and Women<sup>4,7</sup>**

**nr-axSpA**

Non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis

The presence or absence of structural damage to SIJs on X-ray differentiates nr-axSpA and AS<sup>2</sup>

**AS**

Ankylosing spondylitis

No definitive SIJ damage on X-ray<sup>2</sup>

Frequent abnormal MRI or elevated CRP and a combination of SpA features

nr-axSpA is more common in Women<sup>9,10</sup>

57%

60% of patients with nr-axSpA do not convert to AS after 10 years

Definitive SIJ damage on X-ray<sup>2</sup>

Bony growths leading to spine fusion in ~60-70% of AS patients<sup>1,8</sup>

AS is more common in Men<sup>9,10</sup>

65%

**Some patients with nr-axSpA and AS share common clinical features<sup>2,8,11-13</sup>...**

**... and experience a significant and similar disease burden<sup>2</sup>**

Eye inflammation or sensitivity to light (Uveitis)

Skin disease (Psoriasis)

Chronic inflammation of the digestive tract (Inflammatory Bowel Disease)

Swelling of fingers or toes (Dactylitis)

Usually involving larger joints, e.g., knees (Peripheral Arthritis)

Inflammation of tendons where they attach to bone (e.g., back of the heel) (Enthesitis)

**Inflammatory back pain**

(improves with activity, not rest)

**Severe stiffness & reduced mobility,** especially in the mornings

**Fatigue & difficulty sleeping**

**Decreased quality of life**

**Limited social activities**

**Limited work and home productivity**