How to Use the

Axial Spondyloarthritis (axSpA) Clinical Resource Toolkit



The axial spondyloarthritis clinical toolkit is an informational resource only and is not intended as medical advice. Healthcare providers should exercise professional judgment when treating patients. The information contained in this toolkit is intended for U.S. healthcare practitioners only. By using or distributing any contents of this toolkit, in whole or in part, you certify that you are a healthcare provider licensed in the U.S.

The clinical resource toolkit contains eight components:

- 1) Inflammatory Back Pain (IBP) patient questionnaire
- 2) Inflammatory Back Pain (IBP) patient questionnaire and HCP triage form
- 3) Example axSpA diagnostic pathway
- 4) Important considerations when ordering an MRI
- 5) Disease infographic
- 6) Patient visit planning tool
- 7) 2019 American College of Rheumatology (ACR)/ Spondylitis Association of America (SAA)/Spondyloarthritis Research and Treatment Network (SPARTAN) AS and nr-axSpA treatment guidelines
- 8) Reference guide for axSpA disease criteria and activity measures

Each component is intended to be used as follows:

Inflammatory Back Pain (IBP) patient questionnaire and HCP triage form

The IBP patient questionnaire and HCP triage forms may be used by the rheumatologist to obtain additional information for a patient who already has been referred by another healthcare provider (e.g., primary care physicians, orthopedists, chiropractors). The HCP triage form may be sent by the rheumatologist to the referring physician to obtain information and/or lab results before the patient's visit to his or her practice.

- Inflammatory back pain screening tool
 - Criteria for IBP are fulfilled if at least 4 of 5 questions are answered yes.

Example axSpA diagnostic pathway

In the absence of validated diagnostic criteria, diagnosing axSpA can be a challenging and lengthy process for patients and providers. This supplemental resource was adapted from Rudwaleit et al. 2014 and provides example diagnostic pathways showing the probability of the patient having axSpA at each point of medical evaluation. While there are no validated diagnostic criteria for axial spondyloarthritis, this resource provides an example of how an expert clinician may approach the diagnostic process in axSpA.



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Important considerations when ordering an MRI

This supplemental resource describes important considerations when ordering an MRI. The first page is intended to help the rheumatologist consider specifics to include in their MRI order. The second page may be shared with radiologist colleagues to provide them with a more detailed supplemental reference about positioning and scoring requirements for performing MRIs for potential AS and nr-axSpA patients.

axSpA infographic

This resource is intended to be given to diagnosed AS and nr-axSpA patients. The infographic could be used to help them learn more about the disease or discuss symptoms and disease-related manifestations with their rheumatologist.

Patient visit planning tool

This supplemental resource is intended to be distributed to diagnosed patients and filled out prior to their next appointment. This may help the patient keep track of their disease and help the rheumatologist to assess the patient's clinical response to their current treatment plan.

ACR/SAA/SPARTAN treatment guidelines for AS and nr-axSpA

The published axSpA treatment guidelines are intended to provide the rheumatologist with the recommended ACR/SAA/SPARTAN treatment guidelines for patients with AS and nr-axSpA.

ACR: American College of Rheumatology https://www.acr.org/

SAA: Spondylitis Association of America https://www.spondylitis.org/

SPARTAN: Spondyloarthritis Research and Treatment Network www.spartangroup.org/

Reference guide for AS and nr-axSpA disease criteria and activity measures

This supplemental resource is intended to provide the rheumatologist with detailed descriptions of key AS and nr-axSpA disease criteria and activity measures. Therefore, some resources in the guide are only appropriate for use as educational resources to help clinicians understand and interpret clinical trials and are not applicable for clinical practice.

