**What is Axial Spondyloarthritis?**

AxSpA is a painful chronic inflammatory disease that primarily affects the spine and sacroiliac joints (SIJs).

AxSpA is an umbrella term for non-radiographic axSpA (nr-axSpA) and radiographic axSpA also known as Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS).

**Leading symptom:**
Inflammatory back pain that improves with exercise, but not with rest.

**Disease onset:**
Usually before the age of 45, often in the 20s.

**Prevalence:**
Similar to Rheumatoid Arthritis, 0.2-1.4% of adults have axSpA.

AxSpA is equally prevalent in both Men and Women.

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**nr-axSpA**

- No definitive SIJ structural damage on X-ray.
- Often MRI evidence of inflammation on SIJs and spine.

**AS**

- Definitive SIJ structural damage on X-ray.
- Bony growths leading to vertebral fusion develop in ~60-70% of AS patients.

**nr-axSpA is most prevalent in Women**

**AS is most prevalent in Men**

10-12% of nr-axSpA patients progress to AS in 2 years.

Patients with nr-axSpA and AS share common clinical features...

... and experience a significant and similar disease burden.

**Abbreviations:**
- axSpA: Axial Spondyloarthritis
- nr-axSpA: non-radiographic axSpA
- AS: Ankylosing Spondylitis
- MRI: magnetic resonance imaging
- SIJ: sacroiliac joint

**References:**

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