polyarthritides, dactylitis, enthesitides, psoriasis, uveitis and inflammatory bowel disease. All patients were therapeutic-naïve for glucocorticosteroids, DIMARDs or TNF-α inhibitors.

Methods: First, we performed examination of the sacroiliac joint with X-ray, to exclude those patients, who already had radiographic lesions. Then an MRI was performed in the following sequences: T2-weighted STIR for the bone marrow oedema (BME) and T1-weighted sequence for the fat metaplasia (FM). The HDP SPECT/CT was used within one week to examine the sacroiliac joint. Thereafter, the MRI images were fused with HDP SPECT/CT images. On the MRI images the BME (active lesion) and FM (chronic lesion), on the CT scans the sclerotic lesions (SCL, chronic lesion) were drawn manually as volume of interest (VOI). Uninvolved cortical areas were drawn on the different modality slices as reference region (ref). Then, we determined the isotope (99mTc-labelled) HDP uptake of the different lesions and areas.

Results: Four active sacroiliitis and five chronic sacroiliitis without active lesions were diagnosed according to the MRI results. On the other 8 patient’s sacroiliac joints images (MRI, scintigraphy, CT scans), no inflammation-related lesions were observed. The MRI and HDP SPECT-CT findings were 100% concordant. The isotope uptake of BME was the highest, the radioisotope uptake of sclerotic lesions was moderate, whereas the isotope uptake of FM lesions was not different from the HDP uptake of reference regions.

Conclusions: According to the initial results, the different MRI lesions have different isotope uptake, which suggests, that the HDP SPECT/CT can distinguish the early and chronic stage of axial SpA from chronic lesions. Thank to whole body imaging technique we can have further information about disease activity and extent. The present data are the first of our prospective study, and examinations of new patients are still in progress and we plan to investigate our SpA patients in remission to explore the utility of this new method in subclinical activity assessment. We also plan to investigate the corner lesions of the spine to find potential other uses of the HDP SPECT-CT imaging in SpA.

Disclosure of Interest: None declared