Conclusions: Peripheral manifestations appear in 64% of patients with SpA and in more than 50% after axial symptoms onset. Peripheral arthritis, were more frequently mono- or oligo- rather than poly-articular, and the presence of psoriasis or any of the three peripheral manifestations acts as risk factor for the development of other peripheral symptoms.

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THU0250

IMPACT OF GUT INVOLVEMENT IN EARLY SPONDYLOARTHRITIS. THE DESIR COHORT

D. Wendling¹, X. Guillot¹, C. Prati¹, C. Miceli-Richard², A. Molto², R. Lories³, M. Dougados². ¹Rheumatology, CHRU Besançon, Besançon; ²Rheumatology, Cochin Hospital, Paris, France; ³Skeletal Biology, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium

Background: Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) is a well-known extra articular feature of spondyloarthritis (SpA), with increasing evidence of a pathophysiological relationship.

Objectives: The aims of this study were to evaluate in the DESIR cohort a) the prevalence of IBD at baseline and M60, and b) the incidence of IBD over the first 5 years of follow-up, c) factors (epidemiological, clinical, imaging, biological data available in the database) associated with IBD, a on the prevalent cases at baseline and at year 5 and also on the incident cases.

Methods: DESIR is a prospective observational cohort of patients with recent onset (<3 years) inflammatory back pain, suggestive of axial SpA. All available factors in the database were compared between patients with and without past or present IBD at baseline and at M60, and with and without incident cases of IBD over the 5 years of follow-up, by uni and multivariate analysis.

Results: At baseline, 706 patients were analysed, 35 had a past history or a concomitant IBD: prevalence 4.94% [CI 95%: 3.3–6.5]. IBD was significantly associated (univariate) with family history of IBD, DMARD use, steroid use, history of uveitis, elevated ESR and negatively associated with psoriasis, HLA-B27 and NSAID score. In multivariate analysis IBD was positively and independently associated with history of uveitis; OR 3.62 [1.95–6.74], levels of DKK-1: OR 1.03 [1.02–1.05] and TNF serum levels: OR 1.17 [1.08–1.26]. IBD was not associated with phenotypic presentation (peripheral arthritis, enthesitis, dactylitis, uveitis) or baseline serum levels of other cytokines (IL-6, IL-17 A, IL-17 F, IL-23, IL-23).

At M60, 480 patients were analysed, 58 with IBD: prevalence 12.1% [9.17–14.99]. In univariate analysis on prevalent cases, IBD was associated with lower NSAID score, worse activity and function indexes (ASDAS-CRP, BASFI, SF-36, HAQ, ASQoL), use of DMARD anti TNF, more sick leave. In multivariate analysis, IBD was associated with fulfilment of modified New York criteria: OR 4.85 [2.23–10.57], sick leave: OR 1.01 [1.005–1.014], BASDAI: OR 1.10 [1.05–1.16], and with smoking: OR 2.79 [1.53–5.07]. No association with MRI scores, enthesitis, psoriasis, BMD.

After a 5 year follow-up period, 23 new incident cases of IBD were recorded, giving an estimated occurrence rate of 0.95/100 [0.57–1.35] patient-years in this population. Incidence of IBD was independently associated (multivariate) with: HLA B27: OR 0.36 [0.22–0.59], fulfilment of modified New York criteria at M0: OR 3.35 [1.85–6.08], family history of IBD: OR 3.31 [1.62–6.77].

Conclusions: In early SpA, IBD occurs with an incidence of around 1/100 patient-years, and is associated with poor outcome at 5 years, family history of IBD, absence of HLA-B27, fulfilment of modified New York criteria.

Disclosure of Interest: None declared

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THU0251

CHARACTERISTICS OF NEWLY DIAGNOSED AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS PATIENTS IN RHEUMATOLOGY PRACTICES ACROSS GERMANY

D. Poddubnyy¹, E. Edelmann², V. Rios Rodriguez¹, S. Saringen³, T. Mosch³, J. Sieper¹. ¹Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin; ²Rheumazentrum Bad Aibling, Bad Aibling; ³AbbVie Deutschland GmbH and Co KG, Wiesbaden, Germany

Background: There is still limited knowledge about early axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) patients in primary rheumatology care.

Methods: Rheumatologist from n=70 study centres across Germany recruited patients with spondyloarthritis (SpA) diagnosed for the first time (time since diagnosis <1 year) over three consecutive years. Patients were evaluated and

documented regarding clinical, laboratory and imaging characteristics, fulfilment of ASAS classification criteria and treatment. In addition, participating centres (n=36) documented the frequency of newly diagnosed SpA among all patients seen for the first time in their practice in one week.

Results: A total of 427 newly diagnosed SpA patients were recruited. 342 patients (mean age 38.9 years, range 18–73; 55.3% males) had a new diagnosis of axSpA (mean symptom duration 81.5 months (range 0–599)) and are presented here in more detail. 36.5% were classified as radiographic axSpA according to the modified New York criteria and 19.3% were imaging (magnetic resonance imaging and X-rays) negative. The laboratory, clinical and imaging characteristics of these patients are shown in the table 1. 85.4% of these patients diagnosed as axSpA by the rheumatologist fulfilled the ASAS classification criteria. 69.9% were treated with NSAIDs, 3.8% with conventional DMARDs and 1.2% with biologics when seen for the first time by the rheumatologist. The therapy has been continued or changed as follows by the rheumatologist at first visit after making the diagnosis of axSpA: NSAIDs in 80.7%, conventional DMARDs in 8.8% and biologics in 10.5%. However, additional treatment with biologics might be initiated at follow-up visits.

The proportion of SpA patients among all newly diagnosed patients with rheumatic conditions documented in one week was 17.5% (10.1% axSpA and 7.4% peripheral SpA).

Abstract THU0251 – Table 1. Clinical, laboratory and clinical characteristics of patients with axial SpA (n=342)

Parameter	Prevalence, %
Inflammatory back pain, current	74.9
Arthritis, current	14.6
Enthesitis, current	10.5
Positive family history	18.1
Uveitis, ever	12.0
Psoriasis, ever	10.5
Inflammatory bowel disease, current	1.8
HLA-B27 positiv	69.6
CRP positive, current	37.7
MRI sacroiliac joints positive, current	60.8
MRI spine positive, current	11.7
Definite radiographic sacroiliitis (X-ray positive)	29.5
MRI and X-ray negative	19.3

Conclusions: The characteristics of axSpA patients seen in primary rheumatology practices are comparable to what has been reported. The majority of patients are still in the stage of non-radiographic axSpA when diagnosed first and the majority of patients have active MRI inflammation in the sacroiliac joints but not in the spine. In about 10% of patients a TNF-blocker was started already at first visit.

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THU0252

THE RATE OF US VERIFIED HIP INVOLVEMENT IN PATIENTS WITH ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS

E. Agafonova¹, T. Dubinina², A. Dyomina², O. Rumyantseva¹, S. Erdes¹.

¹Laboratory Spondyloarthritis; ²Laboratory of Scientific Organizational Problems in Rheumatology, V.A. Nasonova Research Institute of Rheumatology, Moscow, Russian Federation

Background: Hip joint (HJ) involvement is one of the most common extra-axial manifestations of ankylosing spondylitis (AS).

Objectives: To correlate clinical manifestations of coxitis with the ultra-sound findings in AS patients.

Methods: 224 consecutive AS patients (mean age 33.2±14.2 y) meeting 1984 modified N-Y criteria and hospitalised in V.A. Nasonova Research Institute of Rheumatology with hip pain were evaluated. Patients' mean age at the onset of the disease was 26.3±20.3 y., 93% of them were HLA-B27-positive. Median AS duration was 57 [12–444] months, the BASDAI score was 5.7±3.1. The diagnosis of coxitis was based on clinical signs and symptoms, such as inguinal pain and/or limitation in the range of hip motion (ROM) at the time of patients' admission to the clinic. All patients (regardless current complaints) were subjected to ultrasound