THU0381

PATIENT-REPORTED IMPACT OF AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS ON WORKING LIFE: RESULTS FROM THE EMAS SURVEY

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Background: Axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) impacts multiple dimensions of patients' lives, including working life.

Objectives: To evaluate work-related issues, their associations and determinants among European axSpA patients.

Methods: The European Map of Axial Spondyloarthritis (EMAS), conducted from July 2017 to February 2018, was a cross-sectional on-line survey of unselected patients with self-reported axSpA from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK. Participants were recruited through an on-line panel and patient organizations. Participants were classified as active (employed, unemployed between 15-64 years) or inactive (retirees, on sick leave, students and homemakers). Those employed were asked to report work-related issues (sick-leave, difficulty fulfilling work hours, missing work for doctors' appointments, reducing working hours or taking days off) in the past 12 months. Disease activity (BASDAI), self-reported spinal stiffness, diagnostic delay and psychological distress (General Health Questionnaire, GHQ-12) were compared between employed patients with or without work-related issues using a Mann-Whitney and Kruskal-Wallis test. Two-stage regression analysis was conducted to determine explicative sociodemographic (using stepwise method for income, age, gender, education) and disease-related factors (enter method for BASDAI, self-reported spinal stiffness, functional limitation) over work-related issues.

Results: 2846 axSpA patients participated in EMAS: mean age was 44 ±12 years, 61.3% were female and 48.1% were university educated. Mean disease duration and diagnostic delay were 17.2±12.4 and 7.4±8.4 years, respectively, and mean BASDAI was 5.5±2.0. 61.3% (n=1653) were considered active, of which 87.7% (n=1450) were employed. Of those employed, 67.7% reported a work-related issue, specifically 56.3% took sick leave, 44.6% had difficulties in fulfilling the working hours, 34.6% missed work due to doctor's appointments, 31.6% requested days off, and 25.7% reduced their number of working hours (Table 1). Among all patients, 74.1% faced or believed they would face difficulties finding a job due to axSpA. Experiencing work-related issues due to axSpA was significantly associated with higher disease activity, self-reported spinal stiffness, longer diagnostic delay, and higher level of psychological distress (p<0.001). First regression step showed gender and educational level as explanatory sociodemographic control factors, while educational level and BASDAI were the only statistically significant explanatory factors in the second step (p≤0.001) (Table 2).

Abstract THU0381 –Table 1.

Table 1. Statistical correlations between the work-related issues of employed and sociodemographic and clinical characteristics, (n:1422, unless other specified)

	Work-related issues (mean ± SD or %)	No work-related issues (mean ± SD or %)	p-value
Age (years)	41.4 ± 9.7	42.3 ± 10.4	0.09
Gender (Male)	37.9%	47.9%	<0.001*
Education level (University)	60.7%	56.6%	0.002*
Marital status (Married)	67.5%	69.3%	0.06
BASDAI (0-10), n:1310	5.4 ± 1.8	4.0 ± 2.0	<0.001*
BASDAI (≥ 4), n:1,310	79.0%	50.2%	<0.001*
Stiffness index (3-12)	7.5 ± 2.4	6.3 ± 2.5	<0.001*
GHQ-12 (0-12), n:1,344	5.1 ± 4.0	2.6 ± 3.2	<0.001*
GHQ-12 (≥ 3), n:1,344	64.6%	34.1%	<0.001*
Depression, n:1,371	26.1%	11.1%	<0.001*
Anxiety, n:1,368	32.2%	16.1%	<0.001*

*Test χ^2 and Mann-Whitney to indicate if there is an association between the variables.

Abstract THU0381 –Table 2.

Table 2. Regression analysis on the determinants of the presence of work-related issues of patients with axSpA and their demographic, socioeconomic and disease-related parameters. n=1162.

	Sig. of change in first stage (those above 0.05 are not considered sociodemographic control factors)	Second stage Coefficients	Sig. of coefficients	Goodness of fit statistics	
Income	0.568	NA		Cox-Snell R ²	,234
Age	0.443	NA			
Gender	0.009	,052	,691	Nagelkerke R ²	,312
Education level	0.033	,160	,016		
Stiffness Index	NA	-,032	,271	Percentage of correct predictions	72%
Limitation Index	NA	,001	,891		
BASDAI	NA	-,284	,000		

Conclusion: Nearly two-thirds of employed patients experienced work-related issues due to axSpA. The strongest factor associated with work-related issues was high disease activity. Understanding the determinants of work-related issues is needed to ensure that patients have adequate workplace and holistic medical support to lead productive work-lives

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THU0382

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH POOR WORK OUTCOMES IN PATIENTS WITH AXIAL SPONDYLOARTHRITIS IN SINGAPORE

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Background: Axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) can lead to significant limitation of mobility and function, resulting in poor work outcomes.¹ Factors associated with poor work outcomes have not been studied in an Asian population. Singapore is an urban Asian city with a low unemployment rate and a healthcare model with heavy emphasis on self-reliance.² This socio-cultural context may influence risk factors for poor work outcomes.

Objectives: To identify factors associated with poor work outcomes in patients with axSpA in Singapore.

Methods: A cross-sectional study was performed in two tertiary centres in Singapore. Patients ≥21 years fulfilling Assessment in Spondyloarthritis International Society (ASAS) 2009 criteria for axSpA were included. We collected social demographics, clinical data, treatment modalities and patient reported outcomes, including the Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index (BASDAI), Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Functional Index (BASFI), EQ-5D index, and Work Productivity and Activity Impairment scale (WPAI:SpA). WPAI:SpA was used to derive scores for presenteeism (reduced productivity while at work), absenteeism (time absent from work), work impairment (combining presenteeism and absenteeism scores) and activity impairment (impairment in activities performed outside of work). Univariable and multivariable linear regressions were used to