Objectives: To describe the baseline characteristics and bDMARD response at one year in axSpA patients in the British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register in Ankylosing Spondylitis (BSBR-AS) according to radiographic status.

Methods: BSRBR-AS is a national prospective cohort including participants who fulfilled the ASAS classification criteria for axSpA. In this analysis, cross-sectional baseline data of patients starting bDMARDs including clinical, demographic and patient-reported outcomes (PROs) were compared. Follow-up data at one year was identified if ≥12 months from baseline and PROs completed within 2 months of visit date. Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Scores (ASDAS) for low disease status, clinically important improvement (CI) and major improvement (MI) were used to measure treatment response.

Results: Baseline variables were available for 1,145 patients. Those with r-axSpA were more likely to be male, were older, and had longer disease duration (Table FRI0287). Follow-up ASDAS was available in 290 patients. Two thirds of the patients achieved ASAS low disease state at one year regardless of radiographic status (nr-axSpA: 64.2% vs r-axSpA: 66.1%, Diff: -1.9%, 95% CI -13.7 to 9.8). Further, no significant differences were seen between the groups in attaining ASDAS CII (nr-axSpA: 50.7% vs r-axSpA: 44.7%, Diff: 6.0%, 95% CI -7.8 to 19.8%) or MI (nr-axSpA: 20% vs r-axSpA: 18.7%, Diff: 1.3%, 95% CI -9.7 to 12.3%).

Conclusion: Although there appeared to be some differences in the baseline characteristics, which are likely related to the natural history of the disease; the level of biologic response was comparable between the groups supporting the concept of axSpA as a single disease entity.

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