Conclusion: Although based on observational data, this work is to our knowledge, the first systematic review and meta-analysis concerned with this subject. SpA and PsA seem to be associated with an increased risk of preterm birth, small for gestational age and elective caesarean section. The analysis of the impact of pregnancy on disease activity in this setting is currently ongoing.

References:

Fig. 1. Association between caesarean section and axSpA

Fig. 2. Association between small for gestational age and axSpA

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Table. Prevalences and odds ratios with 95% confidence intervals for adverse pregnancy outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Pregnancies in women with axSpA</th>
<th>Pregnancies in population-based controls</th>
<th>Odds Ratio (95% CI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preterm birth (&lt; week 37)</td>
<td>5.2% (32)</td>
<td>4.7% (29)</td>
<td>1.11 (0.66, 1.85)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gestational week 28-36</td>
<td>4.9% (30)</td>
<td>4.7% (29)</td>
<td>1.03 (0.61, 1.75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small for gestational age (&lt;2500 g)</td>
<td>1.6% (10)</td>
<td>1.1% (7)</td>
<td>1.43 (0.54, 3.79)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low birth weight (&lt;2500 g)</td>
<td>2.8% (17)</td>
<td>2.6% (16)</td>
<td>1.06 (0.53, 2.13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assisted vaginal delivery</td>
<td>4.3% (26)</td>
<td>3.1% (19)</td>
<td>1.39 (0.76, 2.56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caesarean section</td>
<td>36.0% (220)</td>
<td>29.5% (180)</td>
<td>1.35 (1.06, 1.73)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

axSpA, axial Spondyloarthritis; CI, confidence interval.

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Fig. 2. Determinants of patient-physician discordance in global assessment in spondyloarthritis

Figure Pharmacological treatment within 12 months prior to conception and after conception in women with axial spondyloarthritis

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DETERMINANTS OF PATIENT-PHYSICIAN DISCORDANCE IN GLOBAL ASSESSMENT IN SPONDYLOARTHRITIS

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Background: Patient’s Global Assessment of Disease Activity (PtGA) and Physician’s Global Assessment of Disease Activity (PhGA) are important measures in the evaluation of patients with Spondyloarthritis (SpA), but often provide discordant results. Both PtGA and PhGA are assessed as part of ankylosing spondylitis disease activity score (ASDAS), that is a measure of axial SpA disease activity. However, a significantly increased risk for receiving caesarean section and a tendency for a higher number of preterm deliveries and of small-for-gestational-age infants was observed in women with axSpA.

Methods: Taking advantage of a large health insurance dataset, comprising the period 2006–2018, maternal and infant pregnancy outcomes and delivery outcomes of women with axSpA were assessed and compared with population-based controls (matched by maternal age and calendar year of birth). Odds ratios (ORs) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were calculated using generalised estimating equation analyses.

Results: A total of 611 singleton births among 535 women with axSpA were included in the analysis. The mean age at delivery was 32.5 years. The pharmacological treatment within 12 months prior to and after conception is illustrated in the Figure. Infants of women with axSpA were only slightly more often preterm (5.2% vs 4.7%) and small-for-gestational-age (1.6% vs 1.1%) than infants of matched population-based controls, respectively. Caesarean section was performed in 36% of deliveries among women with axSpA compared with 29.5% in population-based controls, resulting in a significantly increased risk for receiving caesarean section (OR 1.35; 95% CI 1.06–1.73) (Table). The occurrence of pre-eclampsia, preterm birth, and small-for-gestational-age was moderately higher, but not significantly increased, among women with axSpA as compared to population-based controls.

Conclusion: Women with axSpA had no significantly increased risks for adverse maternal or infant pregnancy outcomes compared to non-axSpA women.