

Rheumatology in MSK



RHEUMATOLOGY.PHYSIO

COURSE.

Jack March | Rheumatology.Physio

Agenda



- RA
- SpA (Ax & P)
- PMR
- Gout
- Osteoporosis

Slides



<https://rheumatology.physio/course-rheum>

- CourseRheum

Who am I?



Jack March | Rheumatology.Physio

@physiojack

Other Resources



RHEUMATOLOGY.PHYSIO

Rheumatology

AT A GLANCE



A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO:

Axial Spondyloarthritis
Lupus
Osteoporosis
Rheumatoid Arthritis
Gout
And More...

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Rheumatology

Clinical Scenarios
For MSK Therapists



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ONLINE



Including:
Spondylarthritis
Rheumatoid Arthritis
Osteoporosis
Systemic Lupus Erythematosus
And MORE...

Author: Jack March – Rheumatology.Physio

Spinal Masqueraders

AT A GLANCE



A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO:

Cauda Equina Syndrome
Metastatic Spinal Cord Compression
Spinal Fracture
Spinal Infection
And More...

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Why discuss Rheum in MSK?



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STAY ALERT



NEW

NORMAL



SAVE JOINTS



Rheumatoid Arthritis



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Rheumatoid Arthritis



Rheumatoid Arthritis

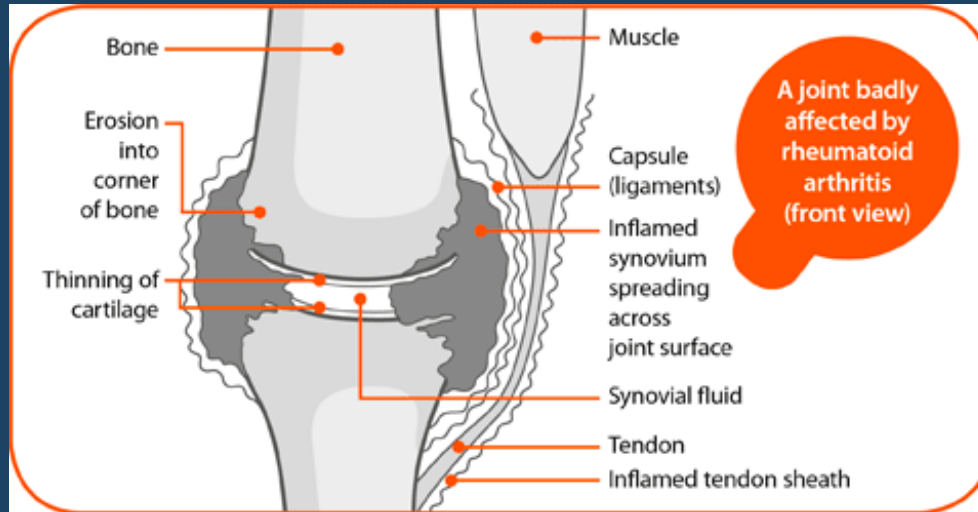


Image courtesy of ARUK

Stage 1 - Diagnosing “Clinically Suspected Arthralgia”(1)

- Joint Symptoms of recent onset (<1 year)
- MCPJs affected
- Morning stiffness (>60 mins)
- Symptoms worst in early morning
- 1st degree relative with RA
- Difficulty making a fist
- Positive MCPJ or MTPJ squeeze test

A score of 3+/7 symptoms is consistent with “Clinically Suspected Arthralgia”(1)

RA

Leiden Clinical Prediction Rule.(2)

What is the age in years? Multiply by 0.02 _____

What is the sex?
a. In case Female 1 point _____

What is the distribution of involved joints?
a. In case small joints hands/feet: 0.5 point _____
b. In case symmetric 0.5 point _____
c. In case upper extremities 1 point _____
d. In case upper and lower extremities 1.5 points _____

What is the score for morning stiffness on a 100-mm VAS?
a. In case 26-90 mm 1 point _____
b. In case >90mm 2 points _____

What is the number of tender joints?
a. In case 4-10 0.5 points _____
b. In case 11 or higher 1 point _____

What is the number of swollen joints?
a. In case 4-10 0.5 points _____
b. In case 11 or higher 1 point _____

What is the C-reactive protein level?
a. In case 5-50 mg/litre 0.5 points _____
b. In case 51 mg/litre or higher 1.5 points _____

Is the patient Rheumatoid Factor positive?
a. If yes 1 point _____

Are the anti-CCP antibodies positive?
a. If Yes 2 Points _____

Total score _____

A score of 9+ is optimal prediction, 8+ is high risk.(3)

What to do?



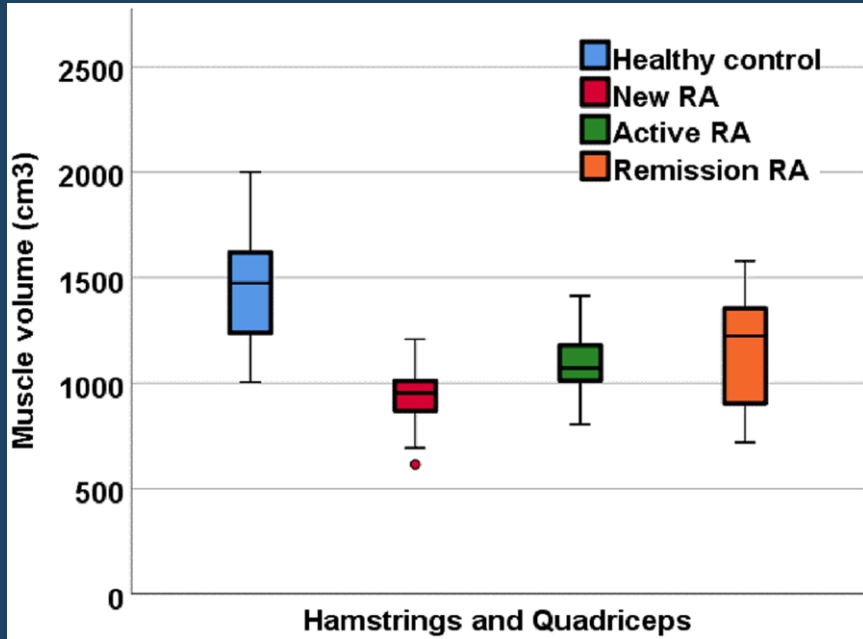
- Priority 1 - RHEUMATOLOGY
- Bloods – ESR, CRP, Anti-CCP, RF
- U/S
- Advice

Stage 4

Advise patient on modifiable risk factors. These can reduce likelihood of progression to RA

- Smoking
- BMI
- Diet

Muscles



Matthew Farrow, John Biglands, Steven Tanner, Elizabeth M A Hensor, Maya H Buch, Paul Emery, Ai Lyn Tan, Muscle deterioration due to rheumatoid arthritis: assessment by quantitative MRI and strength testing, *Rheumatology*, , keaa364, <https://doi.org/10.1093/rheumatology/keaa364>

Differential Diagnosis



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Differential Diagnosis



- Gout
- Other Inflammatory Arthropathy (PsA, AxSpA, Lupus, Reactive Arthritis)
- Osteoarthritis
- Persistent pain conditions
- Ca

Case study time



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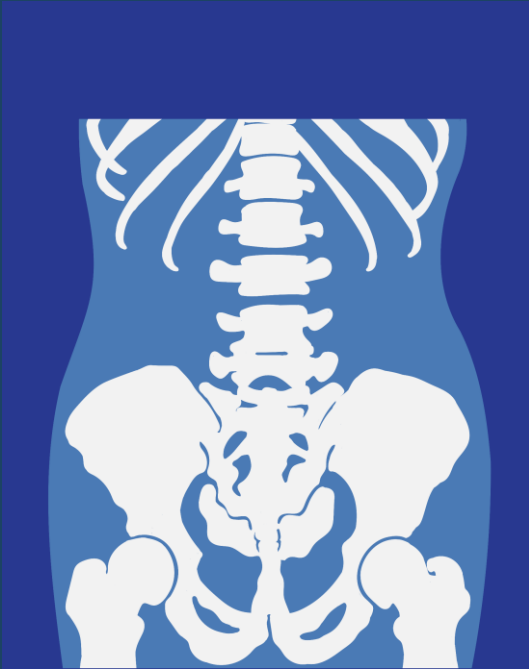
Coffee...



Spondyloarthritis



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SpA

AxSpA

- Ankylosing Spondylitis
 - nr-AxSpA
 - r-AxSpA
- Enteropathic
- Psoriatic

PSpA

- Psoriatic
- Enteropathic
- Something else, who knows. It complicated.



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ONLINE.

Inflammatory Back Pain



- Stiffness
- Nocturnal pattern
- Better with activity/worse with rest
- Onset. Insidious <45
- Improvement with anti-inflammatories

Extra articulars



- Psoriasis
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Uveitis
- Crohns/colitis
- Dactylitis
- Enthesitis

- Fibromyalgia

AxSpA Men/Women



Men

- More likely radiographic
- Increased Inc. Uveitis
- More likely to meet Modified NY Criteria

Women

- More likely n-radiographic and slower to progress
 - Increased EAMs (enthesitis, psoriasis, IBD)
 - Greater subj disease activity, widespread pain and work productivity loss

SCREEND'EM BEFORE YOU TREAT'EM

A clinical tool to help identify spondyloarthritis (SpA) in patients with tendinopathy.

SKIN

6-42% of patients with psoriasis develop psoriatic arthritis.



COLITIS OR CHROHN'S

Arthritis is one of the most common extra-intestinal manifestations of inflammatory bowel disease. The prevalence of SpA in patients with Crohn's is estimated to be 26% at 6 year follow up.



RELATIVES

There is a strong relationship between SpA and HLA-B27 positive patients.

Family members of patients with SpA who are HLA-B27 positive have a 16-fold increase chance of developing ankylosing spondylitis if they are also HLA-B27 positive.



EYES

Acute anterior uveitis (AAU) can cause a painful, red eye with photophobia and blurred vision. 40% of patients presenting with idiopathic AAU have undiagnosed SpA. 50% of patients with AAU are HLA-B27 positive and >50% of these have SpA.



EARLY MORNING STIFFNESS

Inactivity related stiffness that lasts for more than 30 minutes is suggestive of inflammatory disease.

NAILS

Nail lesions occur in 87% of SpA patients and include:

- small depressions in the nail (pitting)
- thickening of the nails
- painless detachment from the nail bed (onycholysis).



DACTYLITIS

Sausage like swelling of the digits is a hallmark sign of psoriatic arthritis, occurring in 50% of cases.



ENTHESITIS

98% of SpA patients have at least one abnormal enthesis. The most common sites are the Achilles tendon, plantar fascia and patellar tendon.



MOVEMENT & MEDICATION EFFECT

SpA patients report improvement with activity but not with rest, and a favourable response to NSAIDs.

Created by
Paul Kirwan



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Thanks to:
Paul Kirwan
@pdkirwan

SPADE



Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases
Royal United Hospitals Bath 
NHS Foundation Trust

[Home](#)

[SPADE Tool](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Contact](#)

In your patient with chronic back pain, tick all the symptoms that apply to determine the likelihood of axial spondyloarthritis

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Inflammatory type of back pain | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Heel pain (enthesitis) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Peripheral arthritis | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dactylitis | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Iritis or anterior uveitis | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Psoriasis | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| IBD (Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Positive family history of axial SpA, reactive arthritis, psoriasis, IBD or anterior uveitis | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Good response to NSAIDs | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Positive family history of axial SpA, reactive arthritis, psoriasis, IBD or anterior uveitis | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Good response to NSAIDs | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Raised acute-phase reactants (CRP/ESR) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HLAB27 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sacroiliitis shown by MRI | <input type="checkbox"/> |

SHOW RESULTS



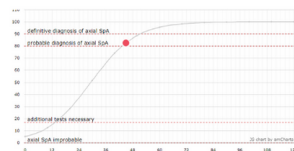
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SPADE



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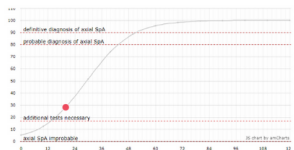
SHOW RESULTS



Probable diagnosis of Axial SpA

This patient has probable Axial SpA – assessment by a rheumatologist is recommended

SHOW RESULTS

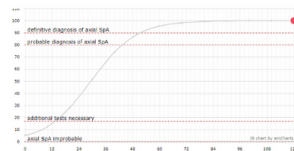


Additional tests necessary

This patient may have Axial SpA but further tests are necessary – assessment by a rheumatologist is recommended

If you would like to let us know the outcome of the diagnosis, please do this via the [Contact page](#).

SHOW RESULTS

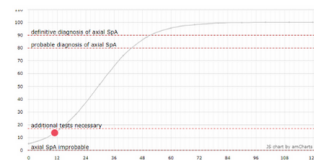


Definitive diagnosis of Axial SpA

This patient is very likely to have Axial SpA - assessment by a rheumatologist is recommended

If you would like to let us know the outcome of the diagnosis, please do this via the [Contact page](#).

SHOW RESULTS



Axial SpA improbable

This patient is unlikely to have Axial SpA – please reassess for an alternative diagnosis

If you would like to let us know the outcome of the diagnosis, please do this via the [Contact page](#).

What to do?



- Priority 1 - RHEUMATOLOGY
- Bloods – ESR, CRP, HLA-B27
- MRI (SpA protocol)
- Anti-Inflammatories?

MRI protocol



- Whole spine - Sagittal T1 and STIR
- SIJs - Coronal T1 and STIR
- Talk to your Radiology department!

Example MRI referral – Suspected Spondyloarthritis, coronal images of SIJs, sagittal images of whole spine, please include T1 and STIR sequences.

Differential Diagnosis



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DDx



- DISH
- Back pain (non specific...)
- Vertebral Fracture
- Reactive arthritis (gastroenteritis etc)
- IBD related (crohns, ulcerative colitis)
- Discitis
- Boney metastasis
- Pagets (SIJ fusion)
- Osteitis
Condensans

Specific conditions



Psoriatic Arthritis



Inflammatory joint disease associated with Psoriasis (Ps)
Prevalence in Ps population is c. 30%
<https://www.psoriatic-arthritis.co.uk/>

A proportion will have arthropathy symptoms prior to skin involvement... (15-20%)

Extra articulars



- Current, history or family history Psoriasis
- Nail pitting
- Dactylitis
- Inflammatory back pain
- Enthesitis

Eyes/Fingers...



Nails...



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Nails...



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Thanks to:
Paul Kirwan
@pdkirwan

What to do?



- Priority 1 – RHEUMATOLOGY
- Bloods – ESR, CRP, RF*, (HLA-B27**)
- MRI/ultrasound
- Anti-Inflammatories?
- Dermatology?

* -ve 87%

** 50-60%

Case study time



Gout/Pseudogout/CPPD



- Sudden onset often at night
- Swelling, heat, redness, pain peaking after a few hours
- Attack lasts a few days then settles
- 1/14 men (anytime after puberty), 1/35 women (uncommon before menopause)
- Risk factors, BMI (especially abdominal), alcohol (especially beer ☹️), FH, DM, vascular conditions (MI, Stroke, high BP, PVD, high cholesterol)

Polymyalgia Rheumatica



- Acute onset Bilat shoulder (90%) and/or bilat buttock pain
- Bilat shoulder and/or bilat pelvic girdle stiffness
- Symptoms worse in the early morning >45 mins

- Peak onset age 65
- Extremely uncommon prior to age 50
- 3:1 Female:Male

- Raised CRP and/or ESR
- Family History PMR
- 23% have synovitis
- 1/3 develop RA

Polymyalgia Rheumatica



Positive Features

- Acute onset (new) bilat. Shoulder and or Buttock pain
- Early morning stiffness lasting 45+ mins
- Night pain with severe stiffness
 - Fever, weightloss, fatigue
 - Age 50+
 - Raised ESR and/or CRP

Negative features

- Positive anti-ccp or RF or ANA etc (other clinical diseases more likely)
- Presence of peripheral arthritis
- Presence of headache, jaw claudication, visual symptoms (GCA)

Polymyalgia Rheumatica



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Table 3. European League Against Rheumatism and American College of Rheumatology Provisional Classification Criteria for Polymyalgia Rheumatica

Required Criteria

- Age ≥ 50 years
- Bilateral shoulder pain
- Abnormal erythrocyte sedimentation rate and/or C-reactive protein

Criteria for scoring algorithm*

Clinical criteria	Points
Morning stiffness lasting >45 minutes	2
Hip pain or restricted range of motion	1
Negative rheumatoid factor and anti-citrullinated protein antibody	2
Absence of other joint involvement	1
Ultrasound criteria	Points
≥ 1 shoulder with subdeltoid bursitis, biceps tenosynovitis, or glenohumeral synovitis AND ≥ 1 hip with synovitis or trochanteric bursitis	1
Both shoulders with subdeltoid bursitis, biceps tenosynovitis, or glenohumeral synovitis	1

*Using only clinical criteria, a score of ≥ 4 had a 68% sensitivity and 78% specificity for discriminating patients with PMR from comparison subjects. Using a combination of clinical criteria and ultrasound criteria, a score of ≥ 5 had a sensitivity of 66% and specificity of 81% for discriminating patients with PMR from comparison subjects.

PMR, polymyalgia rheumatica

Specific conditions



Osteoporosis

- Incidence increases with age
- Uncommon prior to age 50
- 2:1 Female:Male
- Over 1/3 women and 1/5 men will sustain a fragility fracture in their lifetime
- At age 75-84 the absolute 10 year risk for sustaining a fragility fracture is approx. 24% for women and 14% for men.

Specific conditions



Osteoporosis

- Early menopause
- Low BMI
- Crohns/colitis/IBD
- Inflammatory Arthropathies
- Smoking/high alcohol intake
- Eating disorders or food intolerances
- Cancer
- Parental fractured neck of femur
- Osteoporosis
- RED-S (Relative Energy Deficiency in Sport)

Specific conditions

Osteoporosis

- FRAX
- DXA scan

Mostly GP managed, Rheum for biologics

Physio for loading program



Case study time



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