

Health and economic outcomes in axial spondyloarthritis

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Health and economic outcomes in axial spondyloarthritis

A matter of perspective

1. Depressive symptoms in axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) are mainly determined by contextual factors, yet can be improved with biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) in those with active disease. *This thesis*
2. Patients with axSpA are still lagging behind the general population in employment rate despite the availability of effective treatments, indicating that efforts to improve employment perspectives for this population need to go beyond current disease management. *This thesis*
3. The discrepancy between the amount that patients with axSpA would be hypothetically willing to pay for bDMARDs and the actual price of these drugs, challenges the value attributed to bDMARDs. *This thesis*
4. (Mis)diagnosis of axSpA has important consequences for both patients and society in terms of costs and effects, but can be improved while remaining cost-effective. *This thesis*
5. Without adequate estimation of the long-term consequences of (mis)diagnosis, the increasing focus on early diagnosis of chronic disease will undoubtedly lead to undesirable decisions in healthcare, at the expense of both patients and society.
6. Registry studies increasingly challenge the position of the randomised controlled trial as the 'gold standard' in research, yet those working with the former quickly learn why the latter was invented.
7. Statistics are tools, only as good as the person wielding them. There is no such thing as bad statistics, just bad researchers.
8. Both patients and their care providers should be aware of the possible consequences of axSpA for mental health.
9. Doubt is not a pleasant condition, but certainty is an absurd one. *Voltaire*
10. Sometimes you're ahead, sometimes you're behind. The race is long and, in the end, it's only with yourself. *Mary Schmich*
11. I would have written a shorter letter, but I did not have the time. *Blaise Pascal*