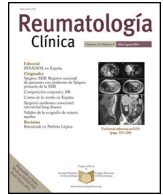




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Special Article

Atlas of axial spondyloarthritis in Spain 2017: Study design and population



Marco Garrido-Cumbrera^{a,b,*}, Victoria Navarro-Compán^c, Pedro Zarco^d, Eduardo Collantes-Estévez^e, David Gálvez-Ruiz^a, Olta Braçe^a, Jorge Chacón García^a, Carles Blanch Mur^f, Angels Costa Ferrer^f, Alvaro Hidalgo Vega^g, Pedro Plazuelo Ramos^b, Jordi Gratacós Masmitja^h

^a Health & Territory Research, Universidad de Sevilla, Seville, Spain

^b Spanish Coordinator of Associations of Spondylarthritis (CEADE), Madrid, Spain

^c Department of Rheumatology, University Hospital La Paz, IdiPaz, Madrid, Spain

^d Department of Rheumatology, Foundation Hospital of Alcorcón, Madrid, Spain

^e Department of Rheumatology, Reina Sofía University Hospital, Maimonides Biomedical Research Institute of Cordoba (IMIBIC), University of Cordoba, Cordova, Spain

^f Novartis, Barcelona, Spain

^g Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, Toledo, Spain

^h Department of Rheumatology, Hospital Universitari Parc Taulí, Sabadell, I3PT, UAB, Spain

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ABSTRACT

Objective: Atlas of Axial Spondyloarthritis in Spain 2017 aims to better understand the reality of the patients suffering from this disease from an integrated approach.

Methods: The Atlas 2017 based its results on an extensive cross-sectional patient survey conducted in Spain (2016), validated by a multidisciplinary group of experts on spondyloarthritis.

Results: Data from 680 patients with axSpA were obtained, most of them suffered from AS, were HLA-B27 positive, older than 45 years, and live as part of a couple. A large percentage had university studies, were disabled and members of a patient association. Patients reported a diagnostic delay of 8.5 years, high disease activity (BASDAI 5.5 ± 2.2), moderate-important stiffness (61.0%), medium-high functional limitation (74.9%), and psychological distress (GHQ 5.7 ± 4.5). A total of 54.7% reported taking NSAIDs, 28.4% DMARDs, 36.3% biological therapy and 32.2% were not receiving pharmacological treatment.

Conclusions: The Atlas survey data reveals still a long diagnostic delay, high disease activity, psychological distress, while an important proportion could be undertreated.