

AS update: rising prevalence and recognized gender differences

Prevalence of AS is rising worldwide, but diagnostic delays of up to 9 years have been reported¹

Clinical onset of AS

- Mean age of adult onset is 20 to 30 years¹

Disease at diagnosis

- High disease activity in first 10 years¹
- Diagnosis can occur as late as 5 to 10 years after onset of clinical symptoms¹
- Greater rate of disease progression in men vs women¹
- 2:1 ratio of men to women²

Gender differences in AS

Compared to men, women with AS typically³:



Are diagnosed later



Have worse functional scores at the same radiographic level of damage

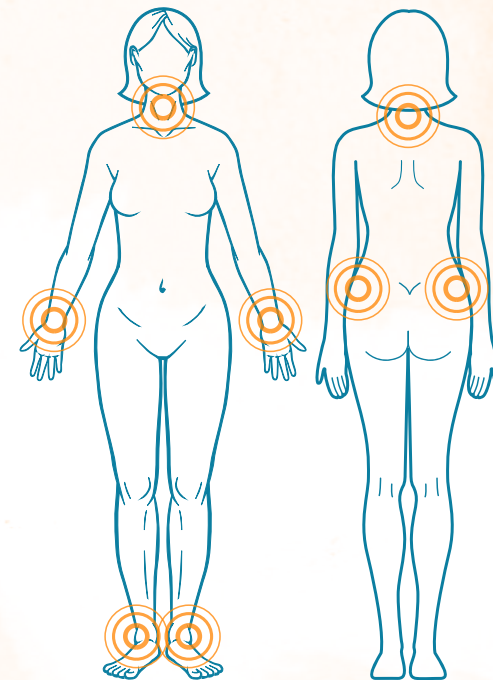


Are more likely to have received intra-articular steroids

Studies with long-standing patients report that women have different symptom clusters³

More neck and peripheral joint pain

Less thoracic/lumbar spinal radiologic severity



References: **1.** Cross MJ, Smith EU, Zochling J, March LM. Differences and similarities between ankylosing spondylitis and rheumatoid arthritis: epidemiology. *Clin Exp Rheumatol*. 2009;27(4 suppl 55):S36-S42. **2.** Chen HH, Chen TJ, Chen YM, Ying-Ming C, Chen DY. Gender differences in ankylosing spondylitis associated cumulative healthcare utilization: a population-based cohort study. *Clinics (Sao Paulo)*. 2011;66(2):251-254. **3.** Lee W, Reveille JD, Davis JC, Learch TJ, Ward MM, Weisman MH. Are there gender differences in severity of ankylosing spondylitis? Results from the PSOAS cohort. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2007;66(5):633-638.

