Is fibromyalgia masking your patient’s AS?

Although separate syndromes with different mechanisms,

**Fibromyalgia signs and symptoms may overlap with those of AS**

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**Fibromyalgia tender points**

In one study (N=99), 10% of patients with fibromyalgia met ASAS criteria for axial SpA based on MRI.

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**AS presentation**

Up to 25% of patients with AS have coexisting fibromyalgia.

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Overlapping signs and symptoms:

- Nocturnal back pain
- Morning stiffness
- Disturbed sleep
- Neck pain
- Pain with pressure
- Fatigue

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*Not a comprehensive list of signs/symptoms.
AS=ankylosing spondylitis; ASAS=Assessment of SpondyloArthritis international Society; MRI=magnetic resonance imaging; SpA=spondyloarthritis.
CRP levels can help identify patients with coexisting fibromyalgia and AxSpA

 Nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ of fibromyalgia patients have elevated CRP$^1$

They are $5\times$ as likely to receive a diagnosis of SpA$^1$

How often do you measure CRP in patients with fibromyalgia?

AxSpA= axial spondyloarthritis; CRP=C-reactive protein.