Spondyloarthritis Guideline: Review questions

RQ1 What signs and symptoms should prompt a healthcare professional to think of spondyloarthritis?

RQ2 What risk factors should increase suspicion of spondyloarthritis?

RQ3 What are the obstacles to a prompt diagnosis of spondyloarthritis?

RQ4 What is the diagnostic utility of a risk assessment score for identifying spondyloarthritis?

RQ5 What is the effectiveness of information gathering (for example family history, self-report questionnaires, and screening criteria) in improving early diagnosis of spondyloarthritis?

RQ6 What is the comparative effectiveness of different referral strategies in diagnosing spondyloarthritis?

RQ7 What is the diagnostic utility of a HLA-B27 test for investigating suspected spondyloarthritis?

RQ8 What is the diagnostic utility of an erythrocyte sedimentation rate test for investigating suspected spondyloarthritis?

RQ9 What is the diagnostic utility of a C-reactive protein test for investigating suspected spondyloarthritis?

RQ10 What is the diagnostic utility of imaging (alone or in sequence) for investigating suspected spondyloarthritis?

RQ11 What is the diagnostic utility of testing for infection such as salmonella, shigella, yersinia, campylobacter and chlamydia in cases of suspected reactive arthritis?

RQ12 What are the indications (signs, risk factors, test or scan findings) for referral for specialist advice at initial diagnosis?

RQ13 How should transition from specialist paediatric services to specialist adult rheumatology services be managed for young people between the ages of 16 and 18?

RQ14 What is the effectiveness of manual therapies compared with standard care for managing spondyloarthritis?

RQ15 What is the effectiveness of structured exercise compared with standard care for managing spondyloarthritis?

RQ16 What is the effectiveness of hydrotherapy compared with standard care for managing spondyloarthritis?

RQ17 What is the effectiveness of acupuncture compared with sham acupuncture for managing spondyloarthritis?

RQ18 What is the effectiveness of physical aids (for example, braces) compared with standard care for managing spondyloarthritis?

RQ19 What is the effectiveness of long-term (3 months or longer) treatment with antibiotics for first-line management of reactive arthritis compared with standard treatment?

RQ20 What is the comparative effectiveness of the following pharmacological interventions for management of axial spondyloarthritis:

 • corticosteroids?

 • non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs?

 • standard disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs?

RQ21 What is the comparative effectiveness of the following pharmacological interventions for management of peripheral spondyloarthritis:

 • corticosteroids?

 • non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs?

 • standard disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs?

RQ22 How often should people receiving pharmacological interventions for managing spondyloarthritis be monitored? How often should people with spondyloarthritis be offered specialist review?

RQ23 When a first-line treatment has failed, what is the effectiveness of the following for managing spondyloarthritis:

 • switching to a different pharmacological intervention?

 • augmenting with a second pharmacological intervention?

RQ24 What is the effectiveness of systemic biological disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs for managing symptoms of enteropathic arthritis?

RQ25 What is the effectiveness of systemic biological disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs for managing symptoms of reactive arthritis?

RQ26 What is the effectiveness of systemic biological disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs for managing symptoms of undifferentiated spondyloarthritis, excluding non-radiographic ankylosing spondylitis?

RQ27 What information on treatment, long-term complications and self-management do young people and adults with spondyloarthritis find useful?

RQ28 What is the effectiveness of information and education in the management of flare episodes?

RQ29 What is the effectiveness of direct access to specialist care, compared with initial primary care access followed by specialist care, in the management of flare episodes?

RQ30 What is the effectiveness of specialist-led long-term management of spondyloarthritis compared with primary-care-led long-term management?

RQ31 How should the cross-speciality care for people with spondyloarthritis be organised?

RQ32 What are the long-term complications associated with spondyloarthritis?

RQ33 What are the long-term complications associated with the treatments for spondyloarthritis?

RQ34 What factors predict clinical improvement after spinal surgery (including osteotomy and fusion) in people with axial inflammation?

RQ35 What factors predict clinical improvement after joint replacement surgery?