

FOI 6779 to assess access to; use of MRI and protocols in the diagnosis of axial Spondylarthritis

1. Which hospital Trust do you work within?

Part 1 – Access to MRI

6. How is axial SpA MRI imaging reported in your Trust?

Internally by a specialist MSK radiologists

Internally by a non-specialist radiologist

Outsourced to a specialist MSK radiologist service

Outsourced to a non-specialist radiologist service

Other (please state)

Part 2 – Use of MRI in diagnosis of axial SpA

7. Are you familiar with the rheumatological term axial Spondyloarthritis (axial SpA)?

Yes

No

8.

Part 3 – MRI protocols

10. Please write in text below what your standard MRI protocol for the assessment of spondyloarthritis is (specifying (i) field strength, (ii) sequences, (iii) anatomical coverage and (iii) acquisition planes for each element of the protocol):

Scanned on a 1.5T scanner
Sag T1 & Stir C1-T8
Sag T1 & Stir T8-S3
Cor T1 & Stir SIJ's

11. What is the approximate scan time for this protocol? If multiple scanners are used, please give an average or range.

45 mins

12. When assessing patients for possible early spondyloarthritis with MRI would you routinely scan?

Sacroiliac joints only

Sacroiliac joints and lumbar spine

Sacroiliac joints and thoracic spine

Sacroiliac joints and thoracolumbar spine

x Sacroiliac joints and whole spine

Sacroiliac joints and any other spinal segment, including whole spine, as requested by the rheumatologist

13. If you do not scan any of the spine in the assessment of spondyloarthritis, why not?

N/A

Spinal features are not necessary in the diagnosis of axial-SpA

There are no specific lesions for spondyloarthritis in the spine

The scan time is too long

It costs too much money to scan

18.

All of the above

Combination of the pathologies ticked above

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22. Are you aware of formal recommendations regarding which imaging features should contribute to the identification of positive MRI of the spine in spondyloarthritis?

Yes, please detail below:

x No

23. What MRI spinal spondyloarthritis features do you use to make a diagnosis of Spondyloarthritis?

Vertebral corner bone marrow oedema

Endplate oedema

Diffuse vertebral body oedema

Posterior element bone marrow oedema

Spinous process bone marrow oedema

Vertebral corner fat infiltration

Syndesmophyte formation

All of the above

Combination of the pathologies ticked above

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