

## 1. Title

The use of ASDAS in patients with axial spondyloarthritis starting bDMARDs: A multicentre prospective cohort

## 2. Project summary

The Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Score (ASDAS) was developed and subsequently validated by the Assessment of Spondyloarthritis international Society (ASAS) in 2009 as a measure of disease activity in patients with axial Spondyloarthritis (axSpA).[1] ASAS validated also the ASDAS cut-offs of disease activity and criteria of response to therapy in 2011.[2] In the 2022 update of the ASAS recommendations, the ASDAS has been considered the best composite score to evaluate disease activity in axSpA and was therefore selected as the tool of choice to be used for that purpose in clinical practice.[3] However, despite the consistent evidence supporting the advantages of the ASDAS, thus far it seems that its use has not been fully embraced by the practicing rheumatologists.[4] Evidence is however still very limited, and it remains largely unknown whether ASDAS is regularly obtained in patients who are starting bDMARD as it is recommended by ASAS. With this study we will be able to quantify gap between what is recommended and what happens in daily clinical practice and also to determine whether there are certain patient characteristics that explain why ASDAS is not used in some patients. This study will therefore yield important information that can be used to optimize how patients with axSpA starting treatment with bDMARDs are evaluated in clinical practice.

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## 4. References

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