

# Impediments to Accurate Diagnosis of Non-radiographic Axial Spondyloarthritis (nr-axSpA): “Rheum to Diagnosis” Study: Interim Results

Kiwalkar S<sup>1</sup>, Howard R<sup>2</sup>, Deodhar A<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, Oregon

<sup>2</sup>Spondylitis Association of America (SAA), Van Nuys, California

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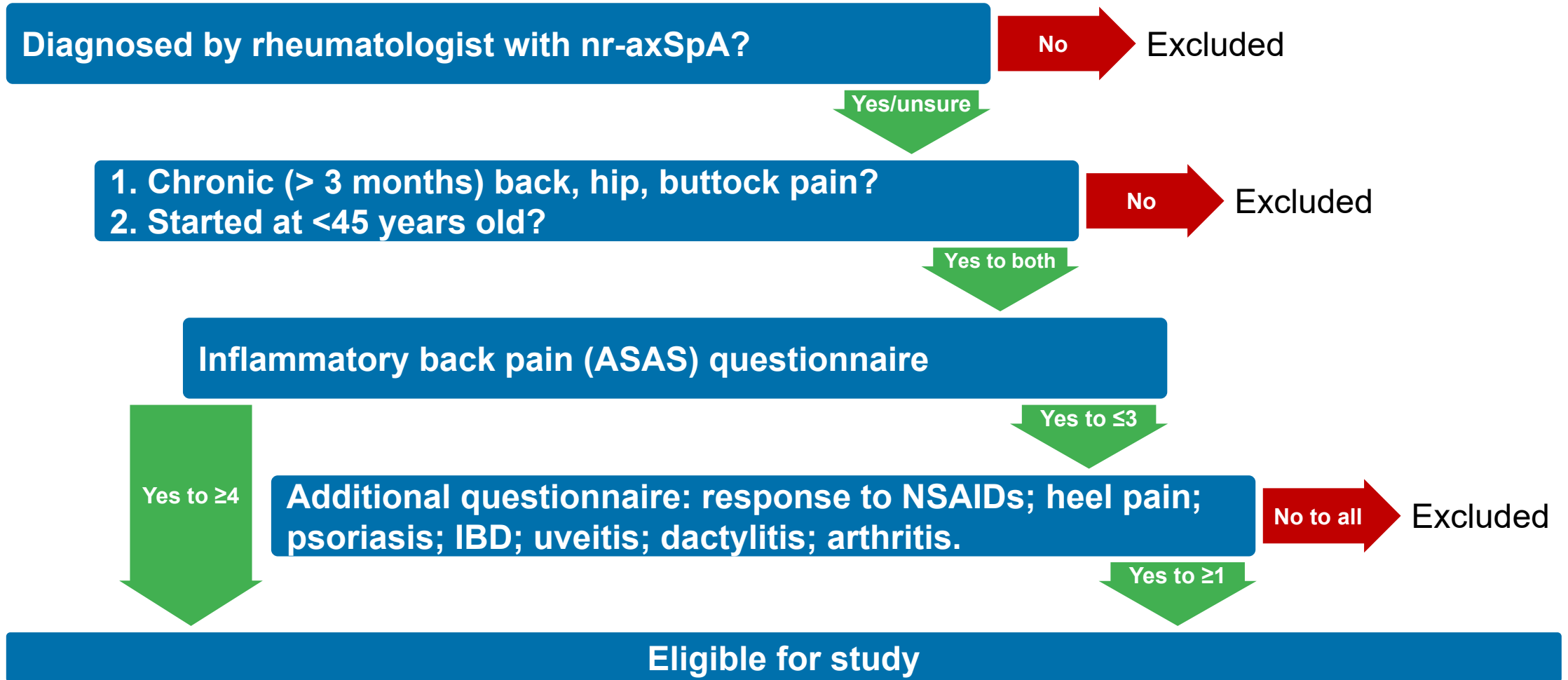
# Study Background, Objective, and Methods

- ▶ In the US, there is up to 14-year delay in axSpA diagnosis<sup>1</sup>, which is likely greater for nr-axSpA.
- ▶ Impediments to timely diagnosis of nr-axSpA are unknown.
- ▶ **Objective:** To understand the patient experience & contributors to delayed nr-axSpA diagnosis among both patients and rheumatologists.
- ▶ **Methods:**
  - Convenient sampling method
  - Qualitative surveys
  - Recruitment: Feb 5 to Feb 21, 2020
  - Semi-structured phone interviews
  - *Analysis:* Grounded theory approach to identify key themes

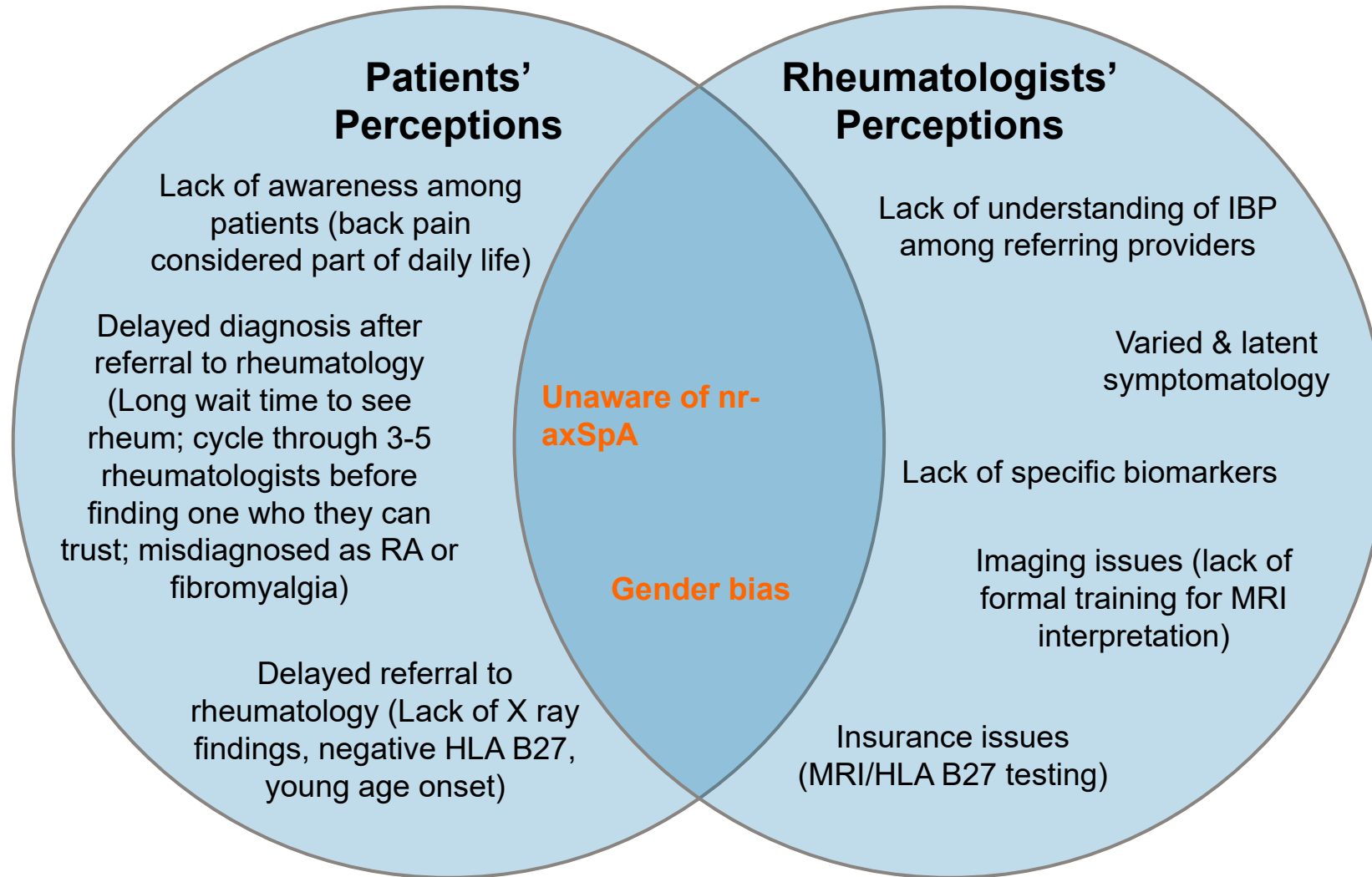
	Patients (SAA sample)	Patients (General sample)	Rheumatologists
Recruitment	SAA monthly newsletter	Back pain panel	SAA list
Screened	165	1425	26
Qualified	50	15	
Interviewed	24	1	15

<sup>1</sup>Deodhar A et al. *Arthritis Rheumatol* 2016; 68(7):1669–1676.

# Methods: Patient Screening



# Survey Results: Barriers to Diagnosis



## Other Suggestions:

*Patients:* Need reliable support/patient advocacy groups, “branding” spondylitis, holistic approach in management of nr-axSpA.

*Rheumatologists:* Freedom from insurers (HLA B27, MRI, Biologics)

# Conclusions & Limitations

## ► Conclusions:

- Patients: Delayed diagnosis even after referral to rheumatology
- Rheumatologists: Lack of formal MRI training, and insurance barriers
- Both patients and rheumatologists agreed to a more widespread awareness and education on nr-axSpA amongst patients, referring providers, and rheumatologists

## ► Limitations:

- Rheumatologists' and patients' associations with SAA, not representative of general public

## ► Future Directions:

- Results form the basis for the quantitative study currently enrolling (N=163)

### Disclosures:

Kiwalkar: Nothing to disclose

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