

Background

- Delay in diagnosis of Axial Spondyloarthritis (axSpA) remains a significant unmet need
- Delay may be due to lack of timely referral to rheumatology.
- Current referral strategies rely on formal patient referral by non-rheumatologists, such as primary care physicians, which may be difficult given busy primary care practices and lack of axSpA awareness among non-rheumatologists.
- In the ongoing Finding Axial Spondyloarthritis Study (FaxSpA), we are reaching out directly to patients by distributing online screening tool (A-tool) via electronic patient portal and Facebook.
- We believe this may be a feasible approach for screening with increasing use of social media and patient participation in electronic medical record.

Methods

A-tool is distributed to patient via MyChart or Facebook

If A-tool is positive, patient is invited for clinical evaluation

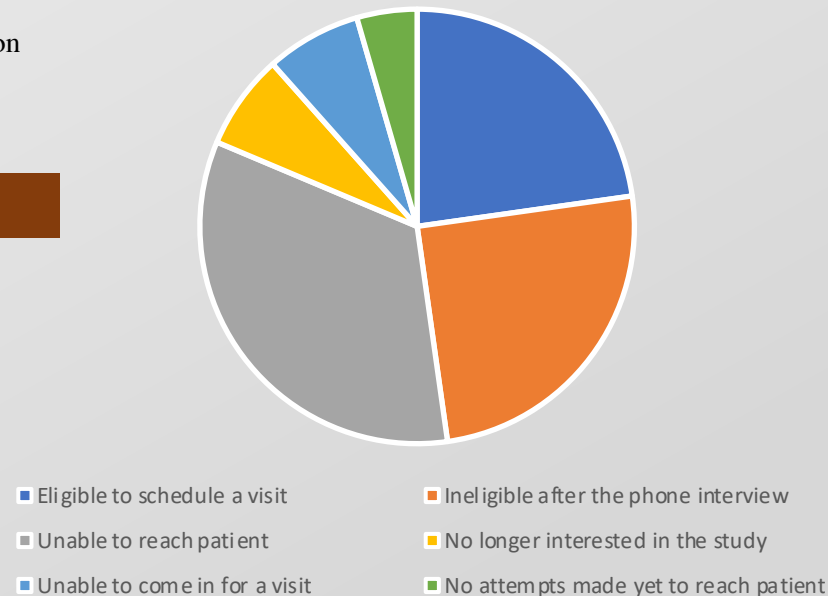
-Office visit with a rheumatologist
-Labs (CRP, HLA B27)
-Imaging (Xray and MRI SI joints)

Clinical diagnosis of axSpA

Table 1. Survey Results of Pre-screen and A-screen

	Total	MyChart	Facebook	P-value
Total number of survey responses	634	332	302	-
Mean age (years)	44.3±13.4	44.2±13.7	44.5±12.9	0.73
Passed pre-screen (out of total survey responses)	428	206 (62%)	222 (74%)	0.002
Passed A-screen (out of total survey responses)	268	132 (40%)	136 (45%)	0.20

Figure 1. Outcomes of Telephone Screen in Patients who Passed A-Screen



Results

- 634 patients completed the survey
- 94% had persistent back pain for more than 3 months, 78% had gradual onset back pain and 86% had back pain that started before age 45
- 428 (68%) passed the pre-screen and 268 (42%) had a positive A-tool
- An attempt was made to reach 256 patients by phone or email to confirm eligibility
- So far, 50 patients have been seen for a rheumatology research visit.

Conclusion

- Using MyChart and social media to screen for patients with axSpA may be a feasible and efficient strategy
- The gap between the number of patients found eligible and those who actually came in for a visit is interesting
- Stay tuned for the results on the effectiveness of A-tool based referral strategy in identifying axSpA.

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