Spondyloarthropathy (SpA) is an inflammatory disease that affects 1-2% of the population within the UK. These diseases are characterised by their association with the gene HLA-B27 and presence of enthesitis.

**First line investigation** are XR’s of the sacro-iliac joint’s (SIJ’s)

**MRI** is recommended if the patient is young or there has been a short clinical duration.

**MRI** should be used to monitor the inflammatory activity in terms of clinical response in SpA.

XR’s of the SIJ can be used in long-term monitoring of structural damage and should be repeated every 2 years.

**EULAR Guidelines 2014**

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**Rudwaleit et al demonstrated that the SpA detection rate should be 80-95%, if all other factors are positive e.g X-rays, HLA-B27 and clinical history without the need for MRI**

**References**