



# What To Do After A Patient With IBD Develops A Spondyloarthropathy?

Dr. Sherry Rohekar, MD, FRCPC

Associate Professor, University of Western Ontario

Ontario Association of Gastroenterology (OAG) 17th Annual International Symposium on Liver and IBD Review

Name: Dr. Sherry Rohekar

# Conflict of Interest Disclosure

(over the past 24 months)

Commercial or Non-Profit Interest	Relationship
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spondyloarthritis Research Consortium of Canada</li><li>• International Psoriasis and Arthritis Research Team</li><li>• Group for Assessment and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis</li><li>• Spondyloarthritis Research and Treatment Network</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Executive Committee Member</li><li>• Member</li><li>• Member</li><li>• Member</li></ul>
Abbvie, Amgen, BioJAMP, BMS, Celgene, Celltrion, Eli-Lilly, Fresenius Kabi, Gilead, Janssen, Merck, Novartis, Organon, Pfizer, Roche, Sandoz, UCB, Viatris	Advisory boards, consultant
Abbvie, Celltrion, Eli-Lilly, Fresenius Kabi, Janssen, Novartis, Pfizer, Sandoz, UCB	Speaker
UCB	Research support

## CanMEDS Roles Covered

X	<b>Medical Expert</b> (as <i>Medical Experts</i> , physicians integrate all of the CanMEDS Roles, applying medical knowledge, clinical skills, and professional values in their provision of high-quality and safe patient-centered care. <i>Medical Expert</i> is the central physician Role in the CanMEDS Framework and defines the physician's clinical scope of practice.)
X	<b>Communicator</b> (as <i>Communicators</i> , physicians form relationships with patients and their families that facilitate the gathering and sharing of essential information for effective health care.)
X	<b>Collaborator</b> (as <i>Collaborators</i> , physicians work effectively with other health care professionals to provide safe, high-quality, patient-centred care.)
X	<b>Leader</b> (as <i>Leaders</i> , physicians engage with others to contribute to a vision of a high-quality health care system and take responsibility for the delivery of excellent patient care through their activities as clinicians, administrators, scholars, or teachers.)
X	<b>Health Advocate</b> (as <i>Health Advocates</i> , physicians contribute their expertise and influence as they work with communities or patient populations to improve health. They work with those they serve to determine and understand needs, speak on behalf of others when required, and support the mobilization of resources to effect change.)
X	<b>Scholar</b> (as <i>Scholars</i> , physicians demonstrate a lifelong commitment to excellence in practice through continuous learning and by teaching others, evaluating evidence, and contributing to scholarship.)
X	<b>Professional</b> (as <i>Professionals</i> , physicians are committed to the health and well-being of individual patients and society through ethical practice, high personal standards of behaviour, accountability to the profession and society, physician-led regulation, and maintenance of personal health.)



CanMEDS

# Objectives

---

<b>Recognize</b>	Recognize the rheumatological manifestations of IBD
<b>Know</b>	Know when a referral to rheumatology is needed (and what you need to tell us!)
<b>Review</b>	Review treatment options

# Objectives

---

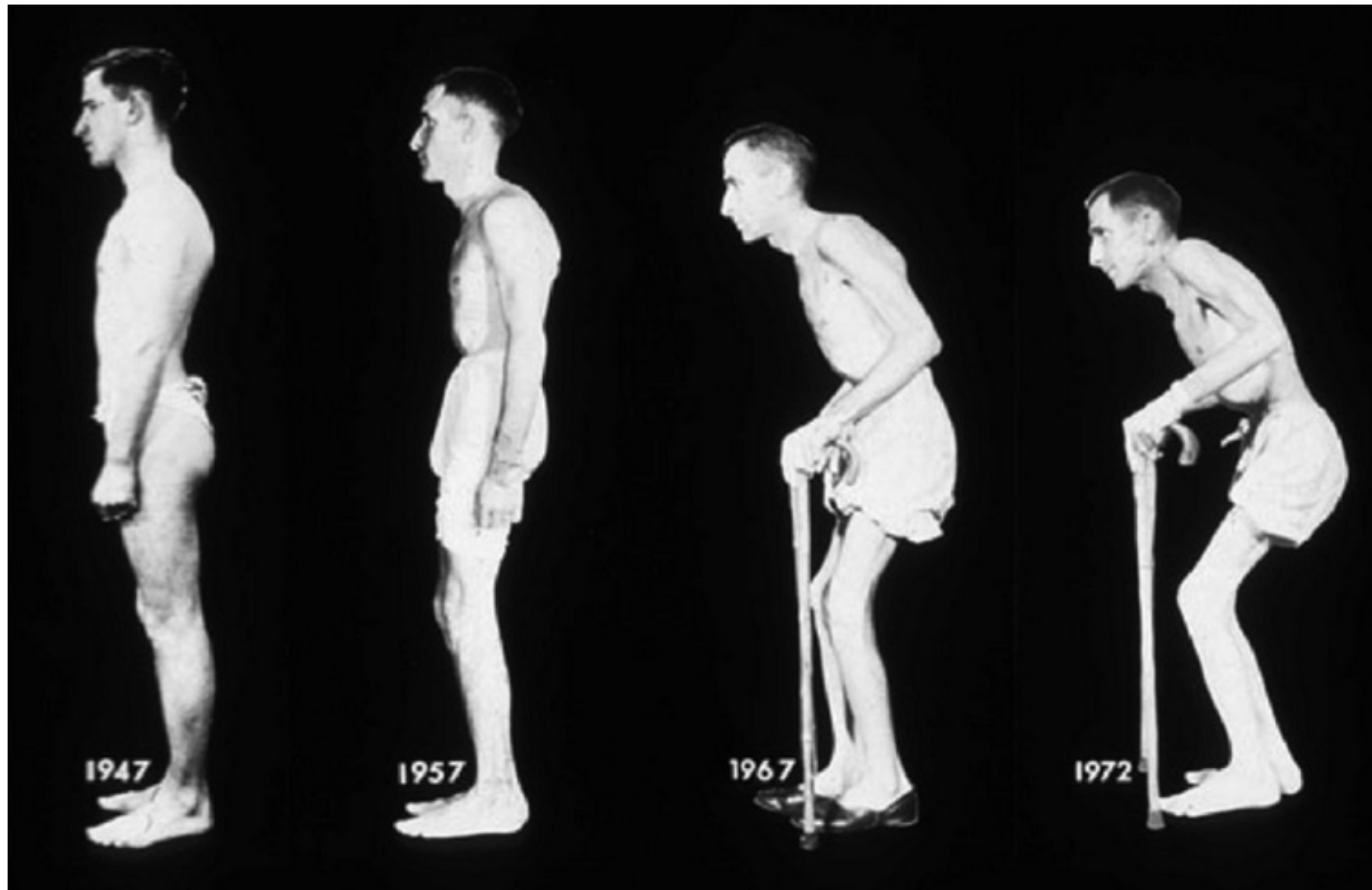
<b>Recognize</b>	Recognize the rheumatological manifestations of IBD
<b>Know</b>	Know when a referral to rheumatology is needed (and what you need to tell us!)
<b>Review</b>	Review treatment options

# Spondyloarthritis (SpA)

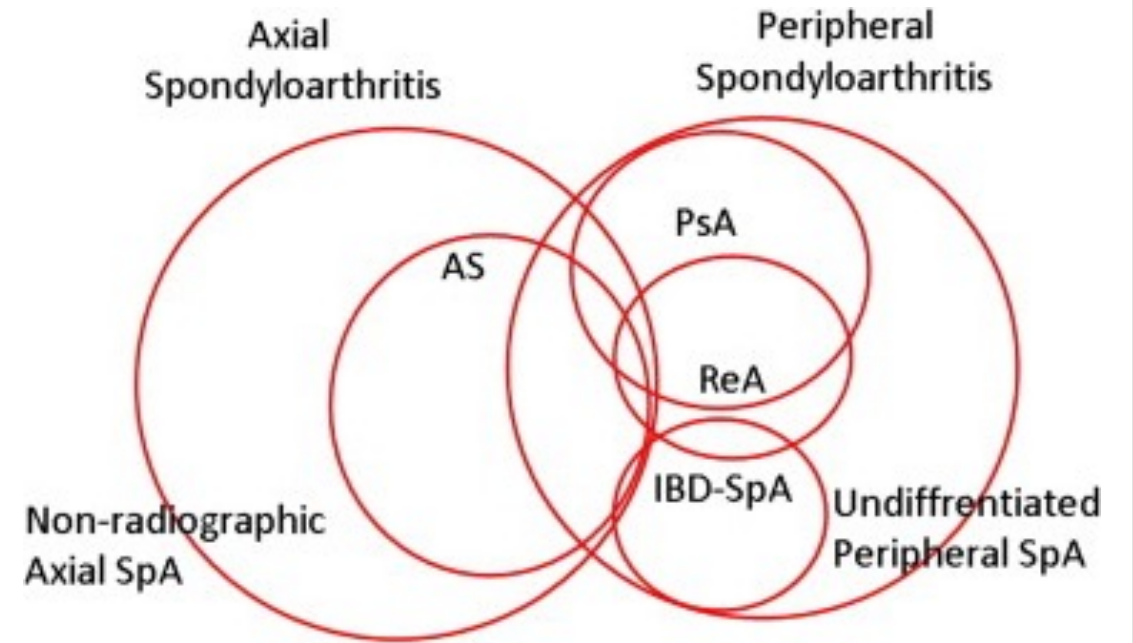
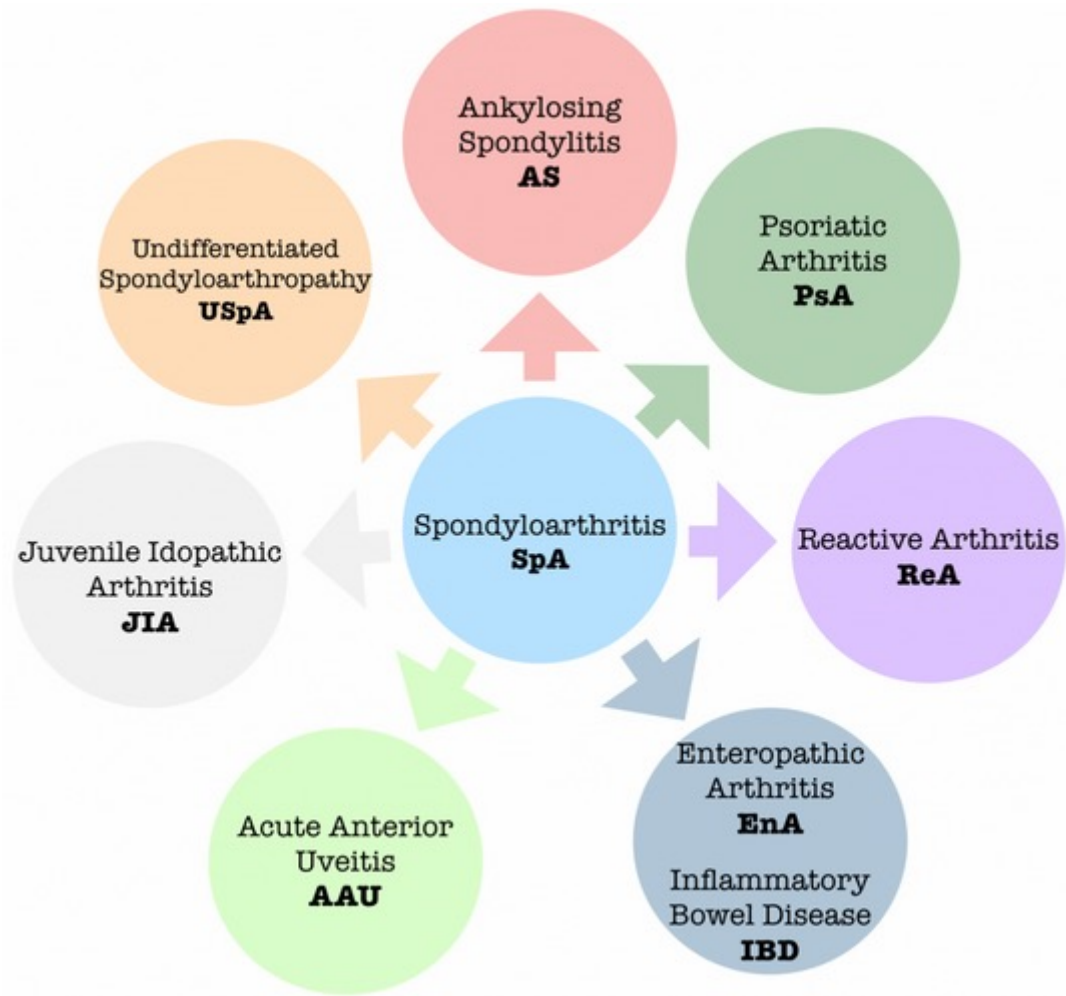
---

- Refers to inflammatory changes involving the spine and the spinal joints
- May also present with predominantly peripheral arthritis symptoms with no spinal symptoms!
- Often called “seronegative spondyloarthritis” due to absence of rheumatoid factor











# Concept of Spondyloarthritis (SpA)

---



## **Predominantly axial SpA**

Non-radiographic axial SpA

Ankylosing spondylitis



## **Predominantly peripheral SpA**

Psoriatic arthritis

Reactive arthritis

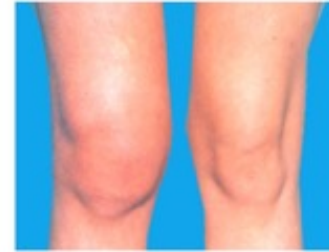
Enteropathic arthritis

Undifferentiated SpA

# Clinical Characteristics Used For Diagnosis

Symptoms

Inflammatory back pain



Imaging



Lab

ESR/CRP

Patient's history

Good response to NSAIDs

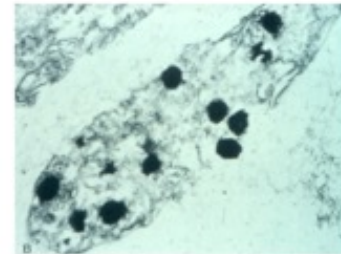
# Clinical Characteristics Used For Diagnosis

## Genetics

HLA-B27  
positive

family  
history

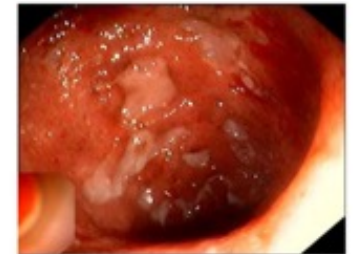
## Predisposing/ concomitant diseases



Infection\*



psoriasis



Crohn's

\*positive staining for Chlamydia in synovial membrane<sup>1</sup>

1. Schumacher HR et al. Arthritis Rheum 1988;31:937-946

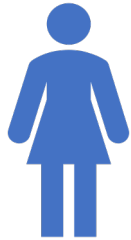
# You Don't Need Sacroiliitis On X-Rays

---



**Non-radiographic  
axial SpA (nr-axSpA)**

Axial SpA lacking  
diagnostic SI joint  
changes on x-ray but  
having diagnostic MRI  
findings



**More women have  
nr-axSpA vs. AS**



**Less abnormal CRP  
in nr-axSpA vs. AS**



**Same pain and  
functional  
disabilities in both  
groups**

# ASAS Inflammatory Back Pain Criteria

---

Age at onset < 40 years

Insidious onset

Improvement with exercise

No improvement with rest

Pain at night (with improvement upon getting up)

Inflammatory  
back pain if  $\geq 4/5$   
parameters  
fulfilled

Sensitivity 79.6%  
Specificity 72.4%

# Epidemiology

---



**Rheumatic manifestations are the most frequent extraintestinal manifestation in IBD**

Prevalence 17-39%

Can occur before, simultaneously or after the diagnosis of IBD



**Risk factors for enteropathic arthritis:**

Active bowel disease

Family history of IBD

Appendectomy

Smoking

Presence of other EIMs such as erythema nodosum or pyoderma gangrenosum

# Presentation

---



## Axial

Prevalence 2-16% of IBD patients

Crohn's Disease > Ulcerative Colitis

Male > Female

Sacroiliitis

HLA-B27 +



## Peripheral

Prevalence 0.4-34.6% IBD patients

Crohn's Disease > Ulcerative Colitis

Female > Male

Usually affects the lower extremities



# Presentation

---



## Type 1

Pauciarticular

Asymmetric

Acute attacks

Coincides with relapse of IBD

Strongly associated with other extra-intestinal manifestations



## Type 2

Polyarticular

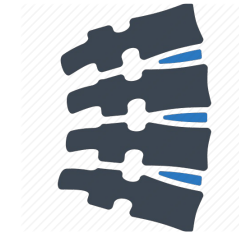
Persistent symptoms

Erosive

Course is independent of IBD

Affects both large and small joints

Strongly associated with uveitis



## Spondylitis

Usually precedes onset of IBD

Course is independent of IBD

Clinically similar to idiopathic AS

Associated with uveitis

Strongly associated with HLA-B27

# SPaCE Study: Prevalence of Crohn's Disease in Patients with SpA

## Design

Prospective cross-sectional study of patients with established SpA

Exclusion: treatment with TNFi, NSAIDs in past month

All patients had video capsule endoscopy (VCE), followed by standard ileo-colonoscopy (IC) with biopsies

63 patients (54% female, mean age  $42 \pm 13$  years) were recruited; 2 patients refused IC and were disqualified.

How many patients with AS had subclinical bowel inflammation on VCE?

a. <10%

b. 20%

c. 30%

d. >40%



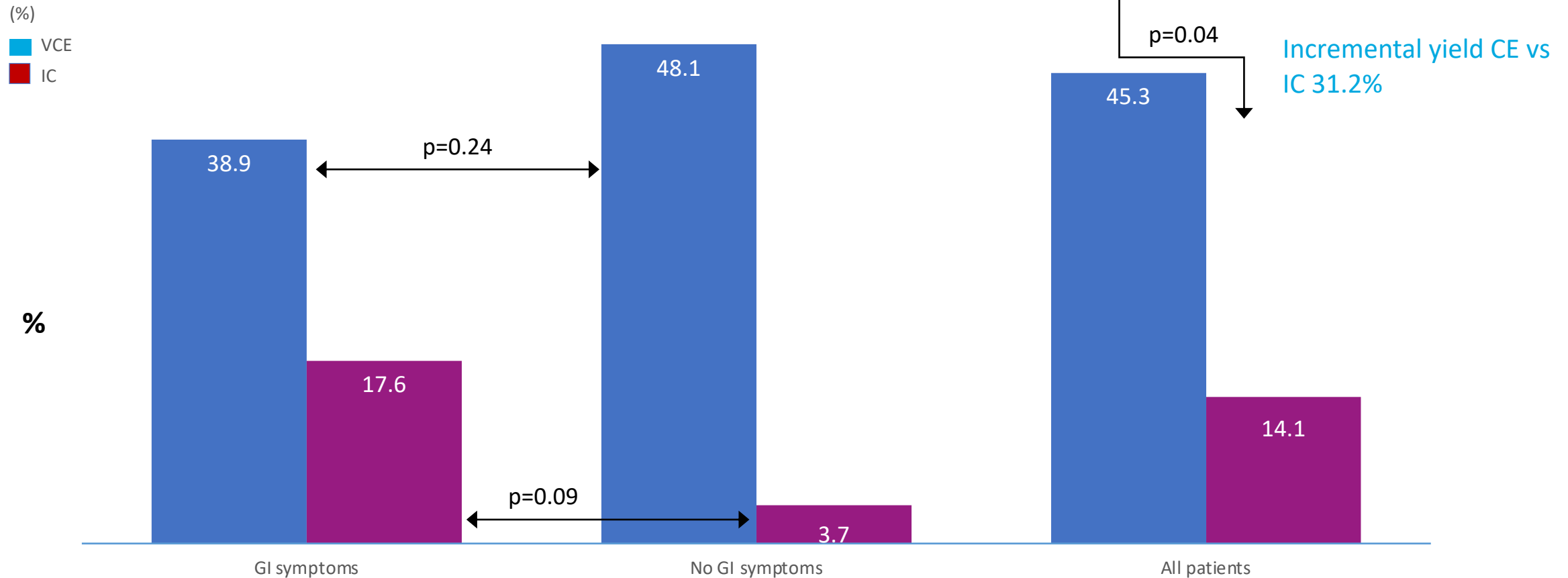
Rohekar - Game Code:

# SNOWCAT

How many  
patients with  
AS had  
subclinical  
bowel  
inflammation  
on VCE?

d. >40%

# SPaCE Study: Inflammatory Lesions on VCE vs Ileo-Colonoscopy in SpA



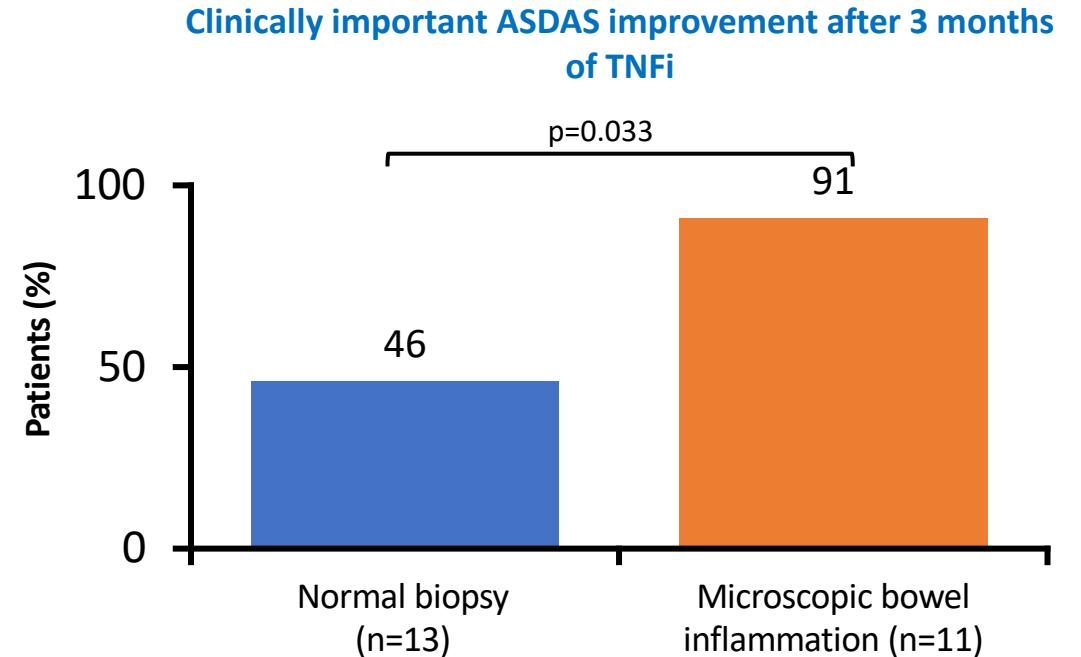
**No correlation between GI symptoms and inflammatory bowel lesions**

**Overall, inflammatory bowel lesions present in 45% of SpA patients**

**OTHER STUDIES: up to 68% of patients have microscopic gut inflammation**

# Microscopic Bowel Inflammation in AS Predicts Response to TNFi

- GIANT cohort
- Presence of gut inflammation positively correlated to TNFi use ( $p < 0.01$ )
- Presence of microscopic bowel inflammation associated with increased ASDAS response



**Patients with axSpA who had microscopic bowel inflammation at baseline responded better to TNFi therapy than those with normal bowel histology**



# Theories Regarding the Relationship Between the Gut and the Synovium

---

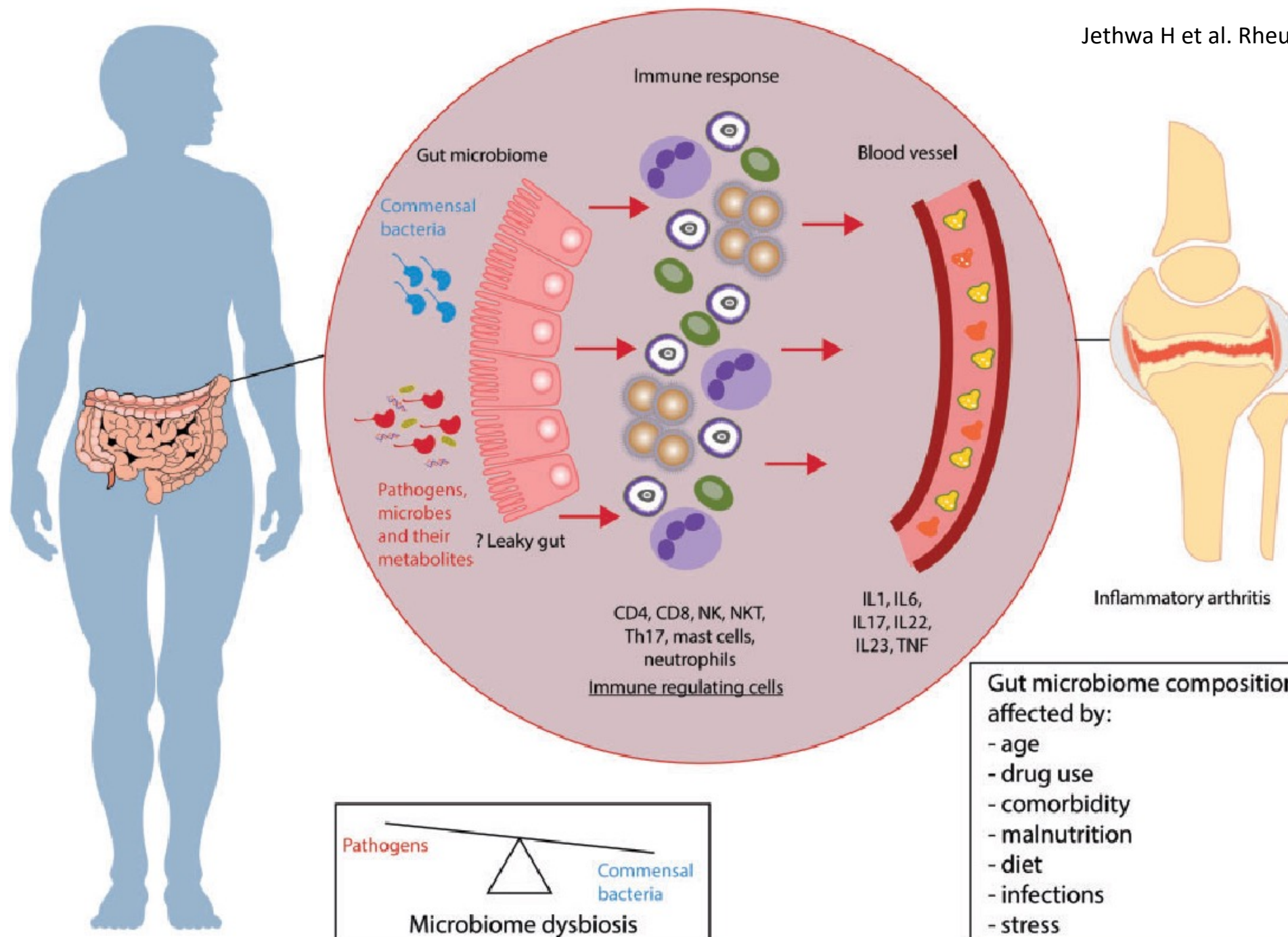
Spreading of  
infectious micro-  
organisms

Transportation of  
antigenic  
determinants

Antigenic  
crossreactivity

Trafficking of  
monocytes and  
lymphocytes in the  
gut

Hemodynamic  
aspects of  
circulation



# Objectives

---

<b>Recognize</b>	Recognize the rheumatological manifestations of IBD
<b>Know</b>	Know when a referral to rheumatology is needed (and what you need to tell us!)
<b>Review</b>	Review treatment options



# Who To Refer

---

- **Chronic back pain, duration  $\geq 3$  months, back pain onset before 45 years of age** and at least one of:
  - Inflammatory back pain
  - HLA-B27 +
  - Sacroiliitis on imaging
  - Peripheral manifestations (arthritis, enthesitis, dactylitis)
  - Extramusculoskeletal manifestations (psoriasis, IBD, uveitis)
  - Positive family history of SpA
  - Good response to NSAIDs
  - Elevated acute phase reactants

# Referrals: What Rheumatologists Want to Know

---



**Does the patient have inflammatory back pain?**



**Are there any swollen joints?  
Where?  
Dactylitis?  
Enthesitis?**



**Are the inflammatory markers up?**

Greater response to biologics



**Does the patient have psoriasis (including nail changes only)?**

Scalp and nail involvement → greater incidence of axial SpA



**Does the patient have uveitis?**

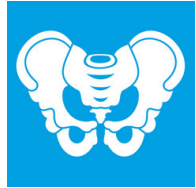


**What treatment are you using?**

Can the treatment be modified? Can NSAIDs be used?

# Referrals: What Rheumatologists Would Appreciate You Ordered

---



**Plain x-ray of  
pelvis and hips  
in all**

No need for  
specific SI joint  
views



**If symptoms of  
axial arthritis,  
x-rays C-, T-,  
and L-spine**



**If symptoms of  
peripheral  
arthritis, x-rays  
hands/wrists  
and  
feet/ankles**



**HLA-B27**



**Referral to  
ophthalmology  
as needed**



**Referral to  
dermatology as  
needed**

Psoriasis  
Hidradenitis  
suppurativa

# Objectives

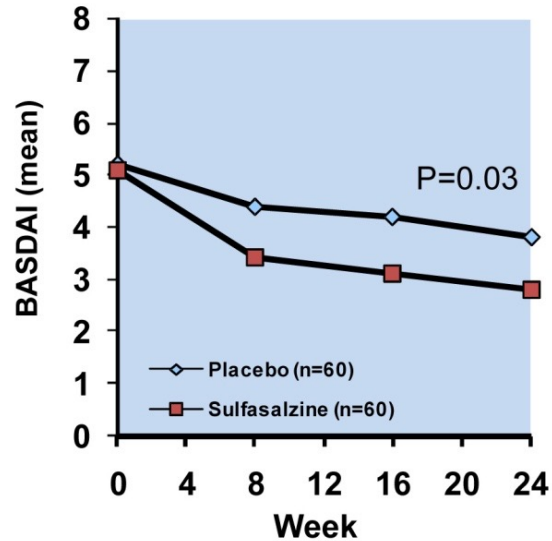
---

<b>Recognize</b>	Recognize the rheumatological manifestations of IBD
<b>Know</b>	Know when a referral to rheumatology is needed (and what you need to tell us!)
<b>Review</b>	Review treatment options

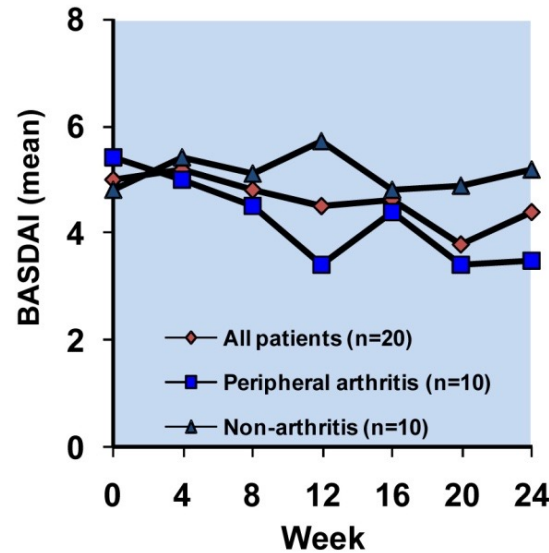


# Conventional DMARDs Are Largely Not Effective for the Treatment of Patients with AS

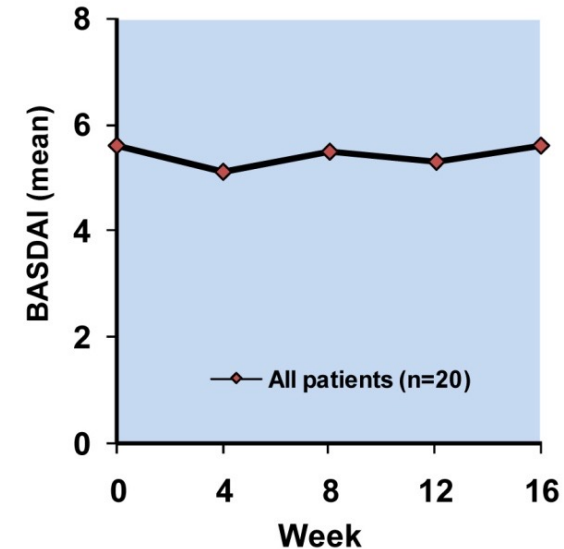
**Sulfasalazine<sup>1</sup>**  
2 g/day



**Leflunomide<sup>2</sup>**  
20 mg/day



**Methotrexate<sup>3</sup>**  
20 mg/week sc

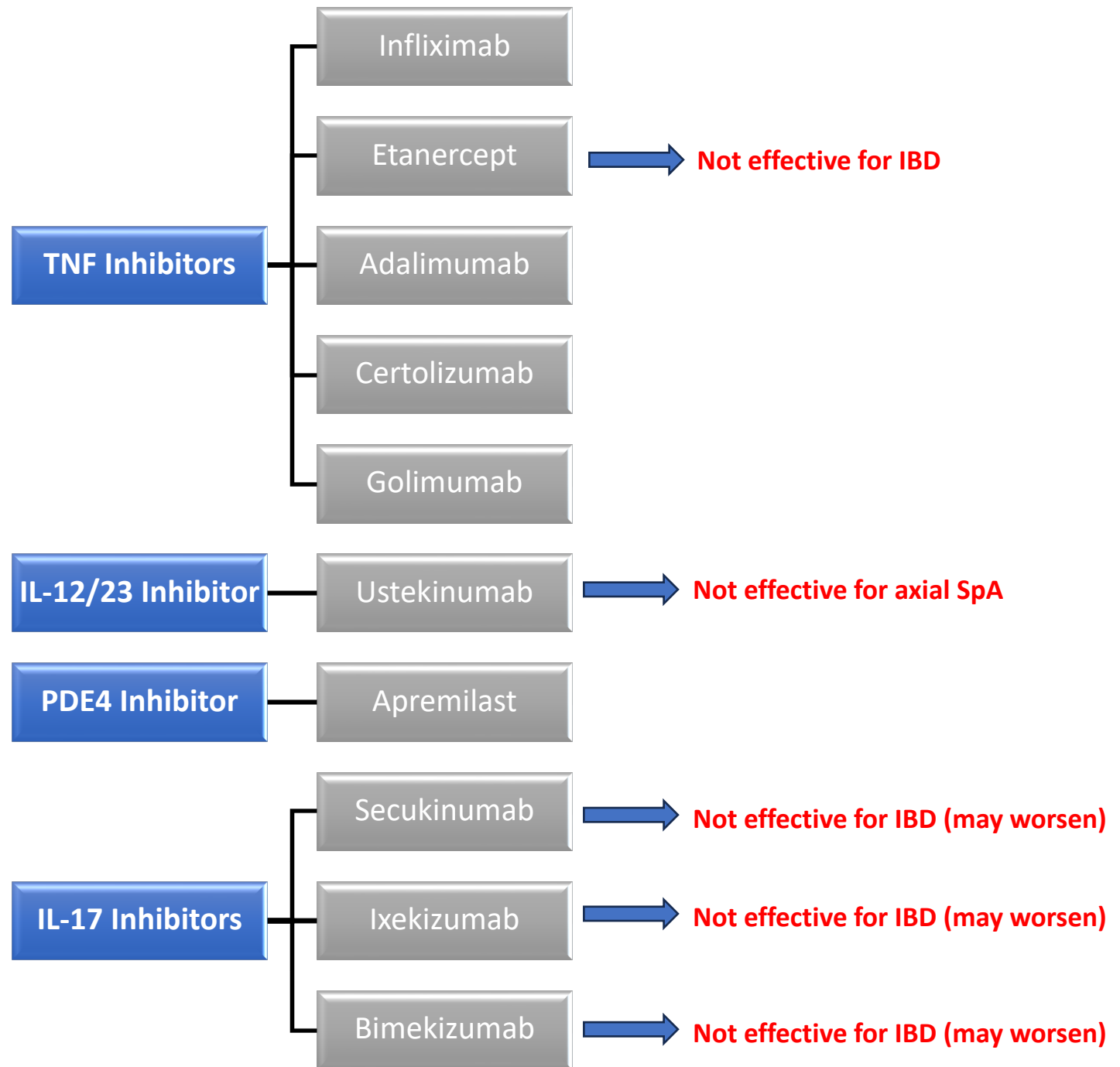


1. Braun J et al. Ann Rheum Dis 2006;65:1147-53
2. Haibel H et al. Ann Rheum Dis 2005;64:296-8
3. Haibel H et al. Arthritis Rheum 2006;54:678-81

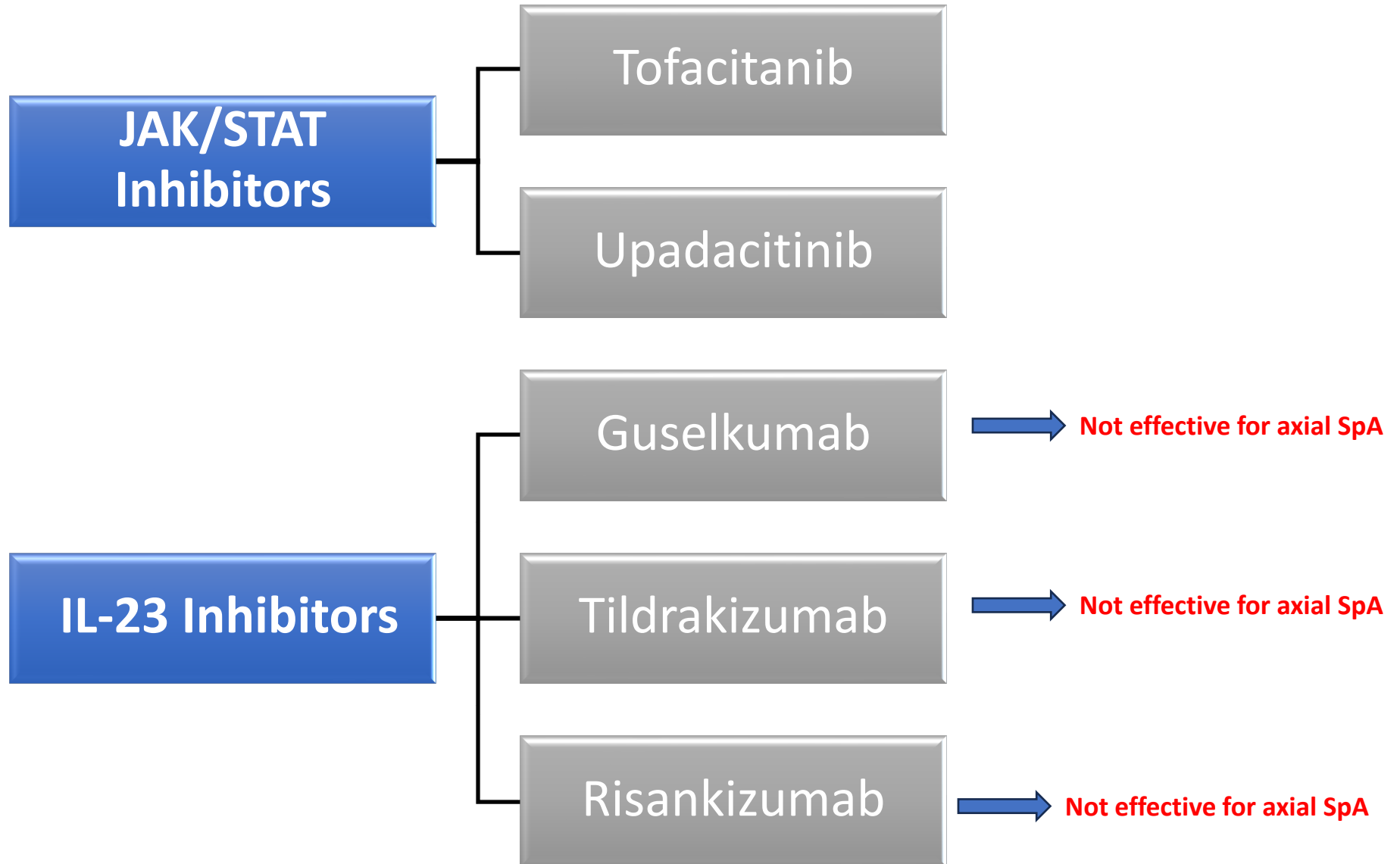


# SpA Advanced Tx

---



# SpA Advanced Tx



# Treatment Notes

---

Patients with axial disease are often the hardest to treat due to limited options

Combining vedolizumab with another biologic

Beware of paradoxical psoriasis

Increased use of IL-17 inhibitors in rheumatology; may worsen or unmask IBD

Combining systemically immunosuppressive biologics?

Partnering with a rheumatologist is key!

# Objectives

---

<b>Recognize</b>	Recognize the rheumatological manifestations of IBD
<b>Know</b>	Know when a referral to rheumatology is needed (and what you need to tell us!)
<b>Review</b>	Review treatment options



Thank you.

[sherry.rohekar@sjhc.london.on.ca](mailto:sherry.rohekar@sjhc.london.on.ca)