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## **The gestalt of spondyloarthritis: From early recognition to long-term imaging outcomes**

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# The *Gestalt* of Spondyloarthritis

From early recognition to long-term imaging outcomes

1. To date, the *Gestalt* of spondyloarthritis is recognized just as well as the *Gestalt* of ankylosing spondylitis was at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. (this thesis)
2. The ASAS classification criteria for spondyloarthritis are consistent with the rheumatologist's perception of the *Gestalt* of spondyloarthritis and the risk for misclassification is low. (this thesis)
3. The overlap between axial and peripheral spondyloarthritis is larger than the developers of the ASAS classification criteria had ever assumed. (this thesis)
4. Patients at risk of spondyloarthritis face the risk of 'overdiagnosis' when the ASAS classification criteria are used to diagnose them with spondyloarthritis. (this thesis)
5. Reliably detecting change in imaging outcomes and predicting it is only possible if measurement error is appropriately taken care of. (this thesis)
6. Structural damage of the sacroiliac joint on MRI is more sensitive to change than structural damage on pelvic radiographs. (this thesis)
7. The more imperfect 'reference standards' deviate from the unobserved truth, the more biased measures developed against those reference standards will be. (after Reitsma JB et al. *J Clin Epidemiol* 2009;62(8):797-806)
8. Current research focuses on recognizing and treating early those who are - or who will likely become - ill. However, preventing clinicians from unintentionally turning healthy people into patients may be as important as halting a disease before it even starts. (after Landewé *RBM. Ann Rheum Dis* 2018;77(10):1394-1396)
9. Diagnostic uncertainty is part of medicine. Reducing diagnostic judgments to black-or-white solutions may seem practical but pays too little tribute to the complexity of diagnostic reasoning in patients with 'grey-zone complaints'. (after Simpkin AL et al. *N Engl J Med* 2016;375(18):1713-1715)
10. Technical advances alone are insufficient to move the field of imaging forward. Sophisticated data modelling, that makes efficient use of data, is key to improve the methodological quality of imaging studies. (after Landewé *RBM et al. Rheum Dis Clin North Am* 2018;44(2):307-315)
11. The search for knowledge drives us, the search for true happiness makes who we are.
12. Our legacy is nothing but the long-lasting impression we leave in other people's lives. The extent of that impression is proportional to the duration of people's remembrance.