

Ankylosing Spondylitis



Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS) always begins in the SI joints and then works its way up through the spine. The early changes are often overlooked. In fact, since the onset is in young (20's) patients with only mild pain and stiffness, many patients are not even X-rayed. Early radiographic signs are involvement of the lower 2/3rds of the joint space, bilateral symmetry, sclerosis around the joint space, and erosions on the joint surfaces causing them to be indistinct without cortical borders. A helpful clinical finding is morning stiffness in the SI/low back region that lasts for more than 30 minutes after waking in patients under the age of 30.