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The Egyptian Rheumatologist

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Ankylosing Spondylitis – Axial Spondyloarthritis: A book from two lifelong experts



Axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) encompasses both radiographic and non-radiographic disease entities. This chronic inflammatory disease most commonly presents by chronic back pain and spinal stiffness with frequent peripheral and extra-musculoskeletal manifestations. The Assessment in SpondyloArthritis international Society (ASAS) classification criteria for axSpA are now valid and well implemented and the management algorithm is well described [1]. The core outcome set for ankylosing spondylitis (AS) has had only minor adaptations since its development 20 years ago. Considering the significant advances in this field during the preceding decades, an update of this core set is ongoing [2].

Ankylosing Spondylitis – Axial Spondyloarthritis (second edition) (Fig. 1) is an interesting book written by 2 lifelong experts in the field of AS. They had already published several genuine manuscripts that cover many aspects of the genetics, clinical and management aspects of spondyloarthritis (including publishing earlier books and special journal issues in that context). Their experience extends over half a century. Their new book is 436

pages and has detailed and updated information in that context (as the writing of this second edition had finished in April 2021). The contents cover all items of Axial Spondyloarthritis up to the

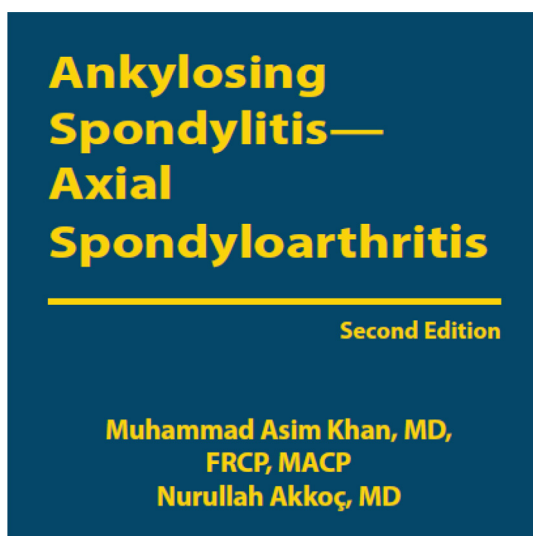


Fig. 1. Front cover of Ankylosing Spondylitis – Axial Spondyloarthritis (Second edition).

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Fig. 2. Table of contents of the second edition of Ankylosing Spondylitis – Axial Spondyloarthritis.

Peer review under responsibility of Egyptian Society of Rheumatic Diseases.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejr.2021.12.007>

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impact of COVID-19 on the patients with the disease. This book deals with axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA) that encompasses ankylosing spondylitis (AS) and spondylitic disease without radiographic evidence of sacroiliitis that is currently termed non-radiographic axSpA (nr-axSpA).

It covers detailed and updated contents that are divided into 22 chapters (Fig. 2). The reader can find with interest detailed and enjoyable contents on the several aspects of the subject, with a real enjoyable section that is covering some clinical case series from the author (MAK) experience including describing his own case as a known AS patient for more than 60 years.

It is noteworthy that the first edition, released 2016 provided evidence-based, practical information on all aspects of AS - Axial SpA, with emphasis on clinical features, pointers for early diagnosis, and comprehensive coverage of current treatment options, including the latest biologic therapies. The first edition was 333 pages and top ranked among the Rheumatology Best-seller books.

The book includes over 100 colored figures and over 80 tables. Additionally, several management illustrations are also provided. I believe that rheumatologists, internists, physiatrists, and other specialists, as well as researchers, trainees, and other healthcare providers will find this book clinically useful. I hope readers of our journal, *The Egyptian Rheumatologist*, will find it as enjoyable and useful as I sincerely did.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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Bassel K. El-Zorkany^{1,2}

Rheumatology, Cairo University, Egypt

Received 10 December 2021

Accepted 10 December 2021

¹ Full ASAS member.

² Ex-editor of the *Egyptian Rheumatologist Journal*.