Enrolment procedures & exclusions

538 AS patients in Department Records

361 patients invited to participate

177 patients did not meet with study criteria
- Other concomitant rheumatic disease, 15
- Sacroileitis were not found on radiographs, 40
- Radiographs of sacroiliac joints were not found, 20
- Unilateral, not graded sacroileitis, 15
- Inflammatory bowel disease, 21
- Psoriasis, 19
- Inflammatory bowel disease and psoriasis, 4
- Wrong diagnosis, 4
- Other severe disease such as malignancy, 9
- Diseased or moved away, 9
- Unable to answer questionnaires, 16
- Medical records were missing, 5

72 patients declined participation

60 patients did not respond to invitation

19 patients showed exclusion criteria
- Psoriasis, 7
- Inflammatory bowel disease, 6
- Pregnancy, 3
- Unable to answer questionnaires, 3

210 patients included
- Physical examination, questionnaires, blood tests, ECG