Reviewer’s report

Title: Trends in diagnostic prevalence and treatment patterns of male and female ankylosing spondylitis patients in the United States, 2006-2016

Version: 1 Date: 16 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Ernst Feldtkeller

Reviewer's report:

1) In this study, the prevalence of AS diagnosed in daily routine has been investigated, in contrast to former studies [4-9] in which the prevalence of AS including diagnoses made at the occasion of the studies are given. This contrast has to be highlighted in the abstract, the introductory chapter, the discussion and conclusion. The small values given in the abstract and in the main text are not the prevalence of AS but concern the portion of patients with AS who received their diagnosis in medical routine.

2) That the prevalence results do not concern the adult population but employed persons only, should also be mentioned in the abstract, results and conclusion chapters.

3) In line 14 of page 5, "adult patients" should be replaced by "employed and insured persons" (they may not be patients).

4) In reference 2 and reference 14, Landewe has to be replaced by Landewé.

5) In reference 3, fo has to be replaced by of.

6) In many references, the usual order of year;volume number:pages has to be regarded.

7) In reference 9, assessment has to be replaced by Assessment.

8) In reference 11, Van Der Heijde has to be replaced by van der Heijde.

9) In reference 13, Heijde has to be replaced by van der Heijde.

10) In reference 17, Rheumatology 2014;4(12) has to be replaced by BMJ Open 2014;4(12):e006634
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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