

## **EULAR Cardiovascular involvement in Inflammatory arthritis (CVIIA) Study Group**

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Patients with spondyloarthritis (SpA) or rheumatoid arthritis (RA), but without any clinically evident cardiovascular disease (CVD), frequently show sub-clinical vascular involvement. It is still not clear what physiopathological mechanisms underlie the relationship between systemic inflammation and increased CV risk as none of the many proposed hypotheses has yet been fully confirmed. From the point of view of everyday clinical practice, there is still uncertainty concerning the need to screen asymptomatic patients for sub-clinical atherosclerosis and what target plasma lipid levels can be considered satisfactory in patients with SpA and RA.

The aims of the EULAR Study Group are to investigate the clinical presentation and necessary procedures for the early diagnosis of cardiovascular involvement in patients affected by RA or SpA (psoriatic arthritis, axial spondyloarthritis, spondyloarthritis associated with IBD, etc), identify the most appropriate aggressive treatment of traditional risk factors, and determine the favourable or unfavourable role of the drugs used to treat systemic inflammatory diseases.

The study group is open to anyone interested in the diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of patients with CV and RA and/or SpA

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