It's Time to Act: **Reducing the Delay to Diagnosis** in Axial Spondyloarthritis (axSpA)







AVERAGE DIAGNOSTIC DELAY FOR AXSPA





EACH YEAR OF DELAY = IRREVERSIBLE DAMAGE, DECLINING MENTAL HEALTH, AND LOST PRODUCTIVITY

BARRIERS TO DIAGNOSIS



LACK OF **PUBLIC AWARENESS**

LIMITED CLINICAL **EDUCATION**

SYSTEM-**CENTERED** CARE

GEOGRAPHIC FRAGMENTED INEQUITIES REIMBURSEMENT UPTAKE OF

SLOW RESEARCH **UNDERUSE** OF DIGITAL **TOOLS**

RISK OF DEATH FROM STROKE

INCREASED RISK OF DEATH FROM HEART ATTACK

EARLY DIAGNOSIS CAN REDUCE DISEASE PROGRESSION FROM

 $60\% \rightarrow 20\%$

THE GOAL: **CUT CANADA'S**

KEY ACTIONS

- Launch national awareness campaign and expand CSA's self-screening tool
- Embed axSpA education into medical and allied health curricula
- Enable direct referrals by physiotherapists and chiropractors
- Expand tele-rheumatology and culturally safe models of care
- Advocate for equitable reimbursement across provinces
- Integrate digital referral tools and AI imaging
- Increase rheumatology training positions and virtual access