PsA is a complex disease and has a serious impact on patients. How do you properly evaluate a patient with PsA?



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AAD, American Academy of Dermatology; ASAS, Assessment of SpondyloArthritis international Society; AT, Achilles tendon; BASDAI, Bath Ankylosing Spondylitis Disease Activity Index; BSA, body surface area; C, calcaneus; DIP, distal interphalangeal; LDI, Leeds Dactylitis Index; LEI, Leeds Enthesitis Index; MASES, Maastricht Ankylosing Spondylitis Enthesitis Score; mNAPSI, modified NAPSI; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; NAPSI, Nail Psoriasis Severity Index; PASI, Psoriasis Area and Severity Index; PGA/IGA, physician's/investigator's global assessment; RA, rheumatoid arthritis; SI, sacroiliac; SJC, swollen joint count; SPARCC, Spondyloarthritis Research Consortium of Canada; TJC, tender joint count.

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A Quick Guide for PsA Evaluation

For optimal management of patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA), the Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis (GRAPPA) recommends the evaluation of each domain of PsA.¹

> Learn how to **identify** and **assess** the six domains of PsA, and **recognize** the impact of each on your patients.

The Six Domains of PsA:

Identification, Assessment, and Patient Impact

PSORIASIS

Common Locations:Elbows, knees, hands, scalp, trunk20Identification:Thickened plaques (see image), inverse, guttate, pustular, erythrodermic



Plaque psoriasis is the most common clinical type of psoriasis, with sharply demarcated erythematous or violaceous lesions covered by silvery lamellar scales^{22,23}

Permission granted by AAD²¹

Assessment Examples:	 PASI Surface area and lesional severity of psoriasis is measured in the head, trunk, arms, and legs¹⁰ BSA The percentage of body surface area affected by psoriasis is measured¹⁰ PGA/IGA The investigator's overall assessment of the patient's skin lesions is measured¹⁰
Patient Impact:	Even moderate amounts of psoriatic skin involvement are associated with a greater disease burden of PsA, with greater reported pain, fatigue, and work impairment ²⁴
Prevalence:	100% OF FA Cases

AXIAL DISEASE

 Common Locations:
 Spine, hips, cervical spine³²

 Identification:
 Clinical presentation, radiograph, MRI (see image)

 MRI can identify inflamma bone marrow edema in the in the disease than radiograph

MRI can identify inflammation as represented by bone marrow edema in the SI joint and spine earlier in the disease than radiography³⁴

Permission granted by Arthritis Res Ther 33

Assessment:	BASDAI The degree of fatigue, pain, tenderness, and stiffness are assessed with a questionnaire ³⁵
	Spinal mobility measurements Range of movement of various parts of the axial skeleton are measured using dynamic tests ³⁶
Patient Impact:	PsA patients with axial disease have worse disease and widespread impairment of patient-reported outcomes than those without ³⁷
Prevalence:	50% of PsA cases ³

DACTYLITIS

Common Locations:Fingers, toes15Identification:Clinical present

Clinical presentation (see image)



Uniform swelling throughout the entire digit, which may be painful or relatively asymptomatic^{17,18}

Permission granted by N Engl J Med¹⁶

Assessment:	LDI Dactylitic digits are identified in the hands and feet, and tenderness is assessed in the phalangeal spaces of those digits ^{10,19} Dactylitic count Number of digits affected ⁴
Patient Impact:	Fatigue, pain, and swelling in dactylitis impairs work and non-work activities ¹⁴
Prevalence:	30-50% of PsA cases ³

NAIL	
Common Locations:	Fingernails, toenails ²⁵
Identification:	Nail matrix psoriasis Pitting (See photo), nail plate crumbling, leukonychia,
	red spots in the lunula
	Nail bed psoriasis Onycholysis and oil-drop dyschromia, splinter hemorrhages,
	subungual hyperkeratosis
	Differential diagnosis Onychomycosis
	One of the most common nail lesions in PsA, pits are superficial depressions within the nail plate, associated with inflammation of the proximal nail matrix ^{27,28}
Assessment:	mNAPSI The severity/presence of seven types of nail lesions are evaluated in each fingernail and scored ²⁹ NAPSI The severity/presence of nine types of nail lesions are evaluated in four
	auadrants of the nail ³⁰
	PGA/IGA The investigator's overall assessment of the patient's nail psoriasis of the target fingernail is measured ³¹
Patient Impact:	Nail involvement is associated with discomfort and pain, and can lead to
	functional impairment and psychological stress ²⁷
Prevalence:	87% of PsA cases ³

PERIPHERAL ARTHRITIS

Common Locations:	Elbows, wrists, knees, hands, feet, other ²
Identification:	Clinical presentation (see image), MRI, radiograph, ultrasound
	Joint involvement may be symmetrical, asymmetrical, polyarticular, oligoarticular, or monoarticular. DIP involvement is a characteristic feature of PsA over RA ² — Permission granted by N Engl J Med ³
Assessment:	68/66 TJC/SJC The presence of tenderness and swelling are assessed at 68 and 66 joints, respectively, covering a majority of those affected in PsA ^{4.5}
Patient Impact:	At a median interval of two years, PsA may result in radiological damage in up to 47% of patients. Pain and irreversible deformities can result in loss of function ^{6,7}
Prevalence:	96% of PsA cases ³
• ENTHES	ITIS
Common Locations:	Inflammation at the tendon and ligament attachment points ⁸ Common sites include: the epicondyle humerus, proximal achilles, and medial condyle femur ³⁸
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Common Locations: Identification: Assessment:	Inflammation at the tendon and ligament attachment points [®] Common sites include: the epicondyle humerus, proximal achilles, and medial condyle femur ^{3®} Ultrasound (see image), MRI, physical exam and/or clinical presentation Ultrasound can identify bony changes and allow functional evaluation of vascularization using Doppler technology [®] – Permission granted by Semin Arthritis Rheum [®] SPARCC Tenderness is assessed at 16 entheseal sites ^{10,11} LEI Tenderness is assessed at 6 entheseal sites ^{10,12} MASES Tenderness is assessed at 13 entheseal sites ^{10,13}
Common Locations: Identification: Assessment: Patient Impact:	Inflammation at the tendon and ligament attachment points ⁸ Common sites include: the epicondyle humerus, proximal achilles, and medial condyle femur ³⁸ Ultrasound (see image), MRI, physical exam and/or clinical presentation Ultrasound can identify bony changes and allow functional evaluation of vascularization using Doppler technology ⁹ – Permission granted by Semin Arthritis Rheum ⁹ SPARCC Tenderness is assessed at 16 entheseal sites ^{10,11} LEI Tenderness is assessed at 6 entheseal sites ^{10,12} MASES Tenderness is assessed at 13 entheseal sites ^{10,13} PsA patients with enthesitis face a greater burden than those without, reporting greater pain, fatigue, and impairment of work and activities ¹⁴