

# Psoriatic Arthritis, Axial Spondyloarthritis, or Psoriasis & COVID

## A Research Plain Language Summary

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Like the general population, older age, male sex, comorbidity burden (particularly cardiometabolic and pulmonary conditions), are factors associated with more severe COVID-19 outcomes such as hospitalization and death. Similar to other rheumatic diseases, higher disease activity, and glucocorticoids are also factors associated with more severe COVID-19 outcomes for people living with psoriatic arthritis, axial spondyloarthritis, and psoriasis.

The risk of severe COVID outcomes was higher, when considering the earlier dates of the pandemic (prior to early 2020) compared with later dates.

People living with psoriatic arthritis and axial spondyloarthritis were associated with having more severe COVID outcomes than people living with psoriasis.

Use of the TNFi biologic medications prior to contracting COVID were associated with lower odds of severe outcomes. In addition, this study found that IL17i, IL23i/IL-12-23i use was also associated with lower odds of severe COVID-19 outcomes.

This is an international study with a large sample size, and a great deal of detail on medications and disease activity. Data was obtained from two international physician-reported registries. Of 5,045 cases in this study, 18.3% had psoriasis, 45.5% psoriatic arthritis, and 36.3% axial spondyloarthritis. Most (83.6%) were not hospitalised, 14.6% were hospitalised, and 1.8% died.

Every study has limitations and raises new questions. Studies of this type are susceptible to selection bias (i.e. physicians decide which patients to enter data on) and unmeasured confounding (i.e. factors not taken into account). The study authors caution that they are reporting on associations found in the study and not to interpret results casually.

*The lay summary authors are grateful for everyone involved in this important research including the investigators and the medical professionals that provided data for the study.*

### Study Title

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Characteristics associated with poor COVID-19 outcomes in people with psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis and axial spondyloarthritis: data from the COVID-19 PsoProtect and Global Rheumatology Alliance physician-reported registries

### Link to original paper

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<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36787993/>

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### Authors of original paper

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