



**Q:** What is the purpose of the study?

**A:** *The purpose of the study is to learn more about the genes causing the disease with the hope that the knowledge acquired would lead to better disease management and eventually a cure.*

**Q:** I have ankylosing spondylitis, but do not have a sibling with the disease. Would I still qualify for enrollment?

**A:** *Patients who have been diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis are eligible for the study even if they do not have family members with the disease.*

**Q:** I live far from the recruiting sites. How do I participate in the study?

**A:** *We are enrolling participants from the entire US. Participation in the study is not geographically restricted and there may not be a need for face-to-face contact throughout the entire research process.*

**Q:** I have ankylosing spondylitis but I am HLA-B27 negative. Can I take part in the study?

**A:** *Patients can enroll in the study if they have been diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis irrespective of their HLA-B27 status.*

**Q:** How many times would blood samples be drawn?

**A:** *The study involves a one-time blood draw for all volunteers.*

**Q:** How much does it cost to participate in the study and who pays the cost of the blood draw?

**A:** *Participation in the study is at no cost to participants. The blood draw is usually complimentary but if there is need for payment, SAA would make such payment.*

**More Info** ➔



**Q:** Who are the best candidates for the control group?

**A:** *The best candidates for the control group are friends and spouses. Remember -- patients are eligible even if they do not have a spouse or friend who is interested in being a member of the control group.*

**Q:** Will my information/medical records be released to other parties?

**A:** *We will not release your information to any third party. Only the research physicians will see your information. Our staff is highly trained to respect patient confidentiality.*

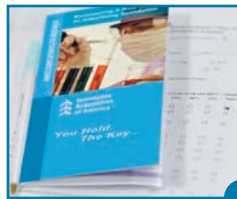
**Q:** How will I find out about the progress of the study?

**A:** *We will keep volunteers posted on the progress of the study via timely written reports in Spondylitis Plus, on our website, [spondylitis.org](http://spondylitis.org), and other SAA educational materials.*

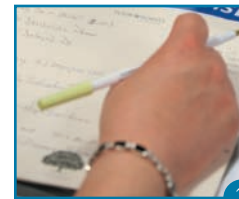
## TASC Research Procedure



**1**  
Call 1-800-777-8189 x224



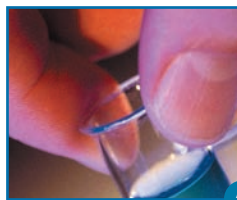
**2**  
Receive a consent package



**3**  
Complete & return



**4**  
We review medical records  
to confirm AS



**5**  
A blood kit is sent to you in  
the mail



**6**  
Get a one time blood draw at  
a local lab or doctor's office



**7**  
The blood is sent to the  
research lab in Houston



**8**  
Leading to new discoveries:  
[spondylitis.org/research.html](http://spondylitis.org/research.html)