

# Team Medicine

30#

Rheumatoid Arthritis  
and Osteoarthritis

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- Doctor's notes
- Extra notes



## Objectives:

By the end of this lecture student should know:

- Pathology of RA and OA
- Clinical features of RA and OA
- Laboratory and radiological changes of RA and OA
- Line of management of RA and OA

## 1. Rheumatoid Arthritis:

Systemic chronic inflammatory disease mainly affects the synovium of the joints.

### Epidemiology:

- Variable expression
- Prevalence about 3%
- Worldwide distribution
- Female:male ratio 3:1
- Peak age of onset: 25-50 years

### Etiology:

- Unknown etiology
  - Genetics
  - Environmental
  - Possible infectious component
- Autoimmune disorder

**Pathology:** (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imR4hCwrGmQ> a video that explains pathophysiology)

Rheumatoid arthritis is characterized by:

- Synovitis
  - Joint
  - Tendon sheaths
  - Bursae
- Nodules
- Vasculitis

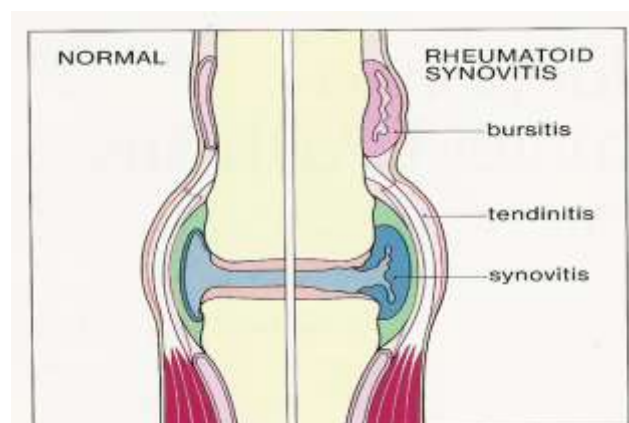
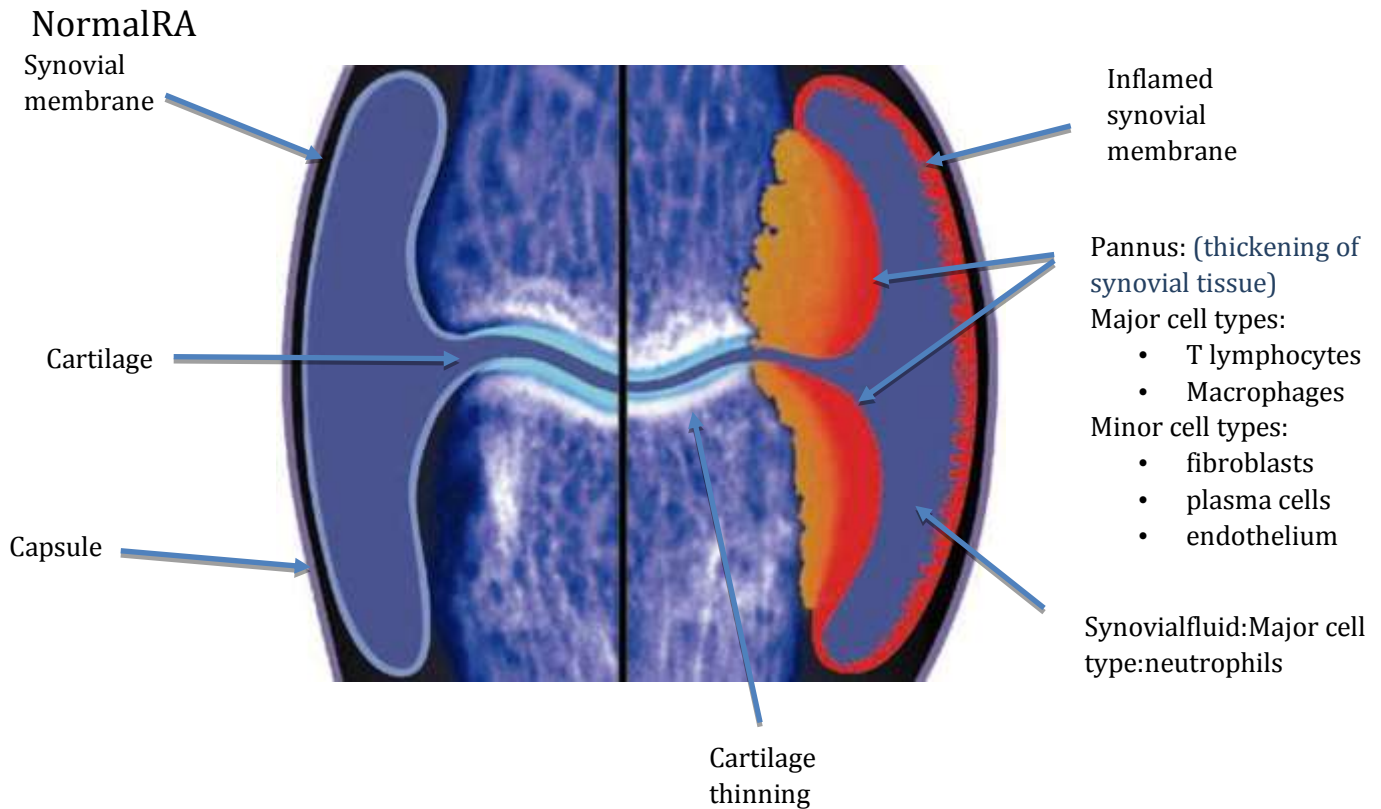
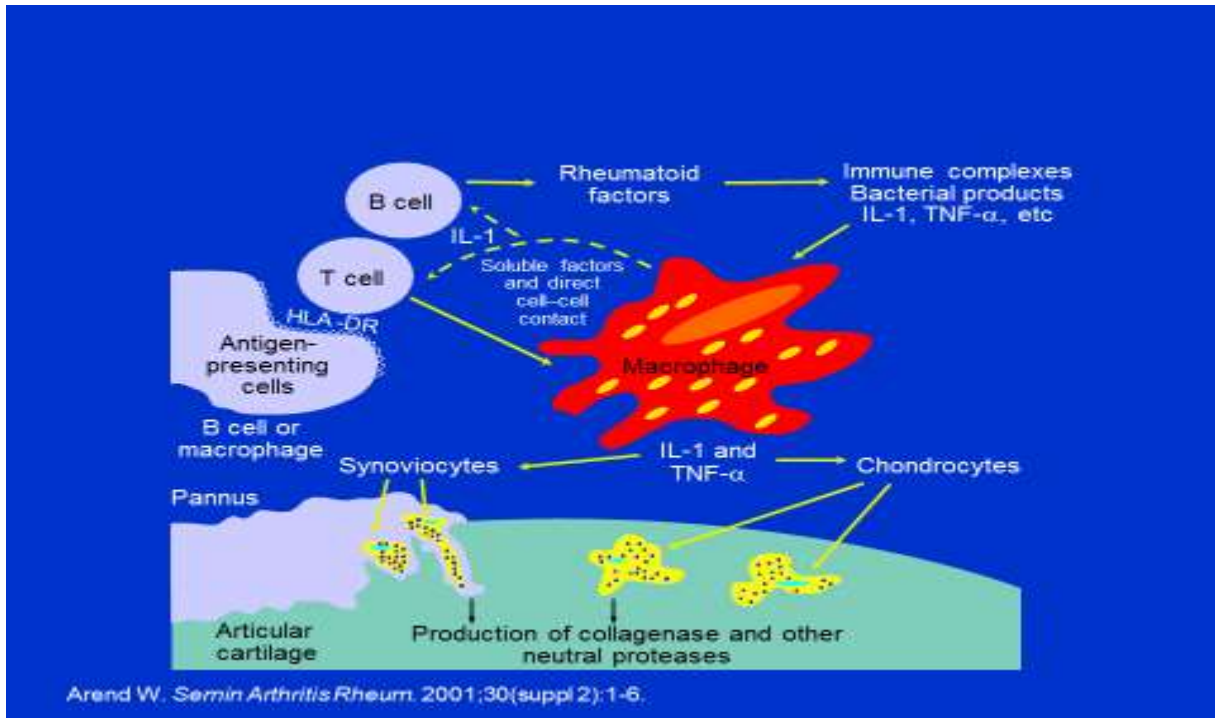


Fig. 3.3 The three major sites of rheumatoid synovitis.

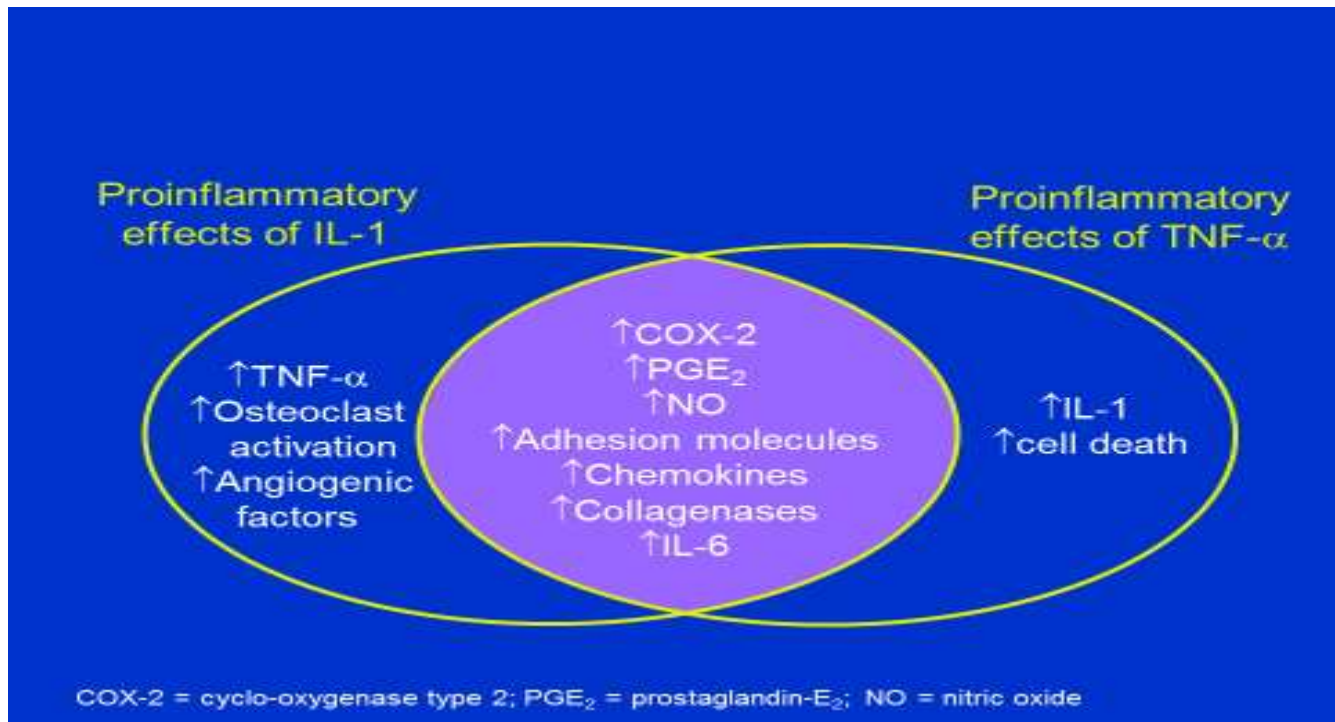


**Numerous Cellular Interactions drive the RA Process:**

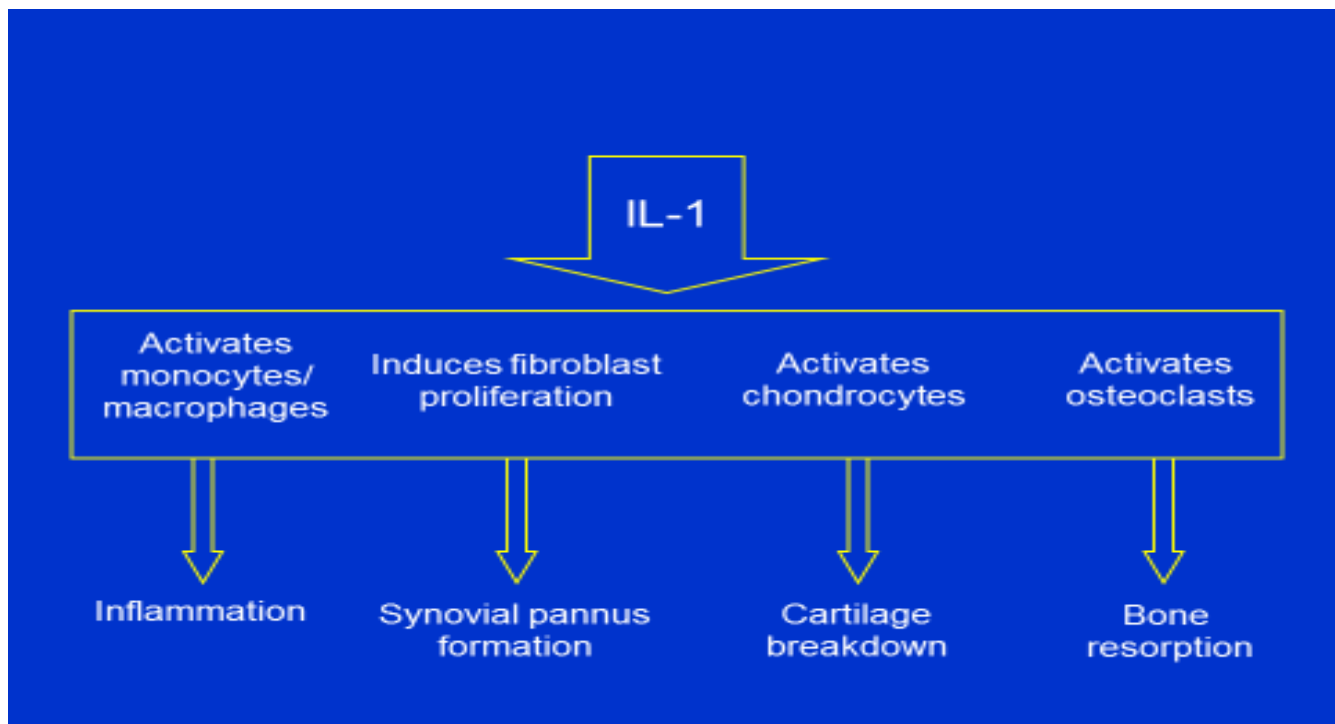


Trigger > activation of the T&B cells, Rheumatoid factor and autoantibodies >proteolytic enzymes, cytokines, ILs and TNF are produced> inflammation and synovial pannus formation, cartilage breakdown and bone resorption.

**IL-1 and TNF- $\alpha$  Have a Number of Overlapping Proinflammatory Effects:**



**IL-1 Plays a Pivotal Role in the Inflammatory and Destructive Processes of RA:**



**Signs and symptoms:**

- Joint inflammation
- Tender, warm swollen joints (soft tissue swelling)
- Symmetrical pattern
- Pain and morning stiffness
- Symptoms in other parts of the body:
  - Subcutaneous nodules
  - Anemia (normocytic normochromic)
  - Fatigue, occasional fever, malaise

**JOINT INVOLVEMENT ON PRESENTATION OF RA:**

<b>Polyarticular (symmetrical) 75%</b>	<b>Monoarticular 25%</b>
Small joints of hands and feet 60%	Knee 50%
Large joints 30%	Shoulder } Wrist } Hip } 50% Ankle } Elbow }
Large and Small joints 10%	

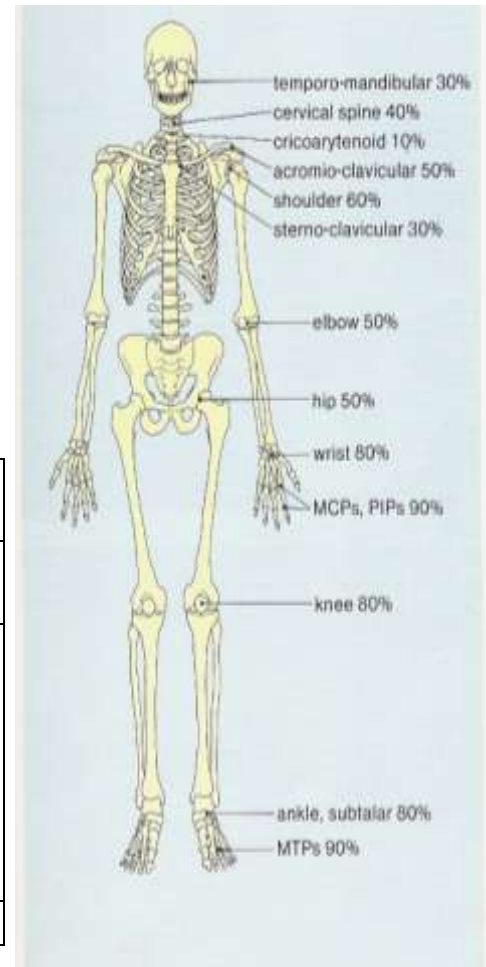


Fig. 3.6 Frequency of involvement of different joint sites in established RA.

**Articular features seen in the Rheumatoid Hand:**

**WRIST joints:** Synovitis, Prominent ulnar styloid, Subluxation (Partial dislocation) and collapse of carpus, Radial deviation (the angle will be lost with the deviation).

**Metacarpophalangeal joints (MCP):** Synovitis, Ulnar deviation, Subluxation.

**Proximal interphalangeal joint (PIP):** Synovitis, Swan neck (MCP flexed, PIP extended, DIP flexed), or boutonniere deformity (PIP flexed DIP extended). (RA doesn't affect DIPs)

**THUMBS:** Synovitis, 'Z' deformity (hyperextension of the interphalangeal joint, fixed flexion and subluxation of the metacarpophalangeal joint and gives a "Z" appearance to the thumb)



Radial deviation at the wrist joint and muscle wasting



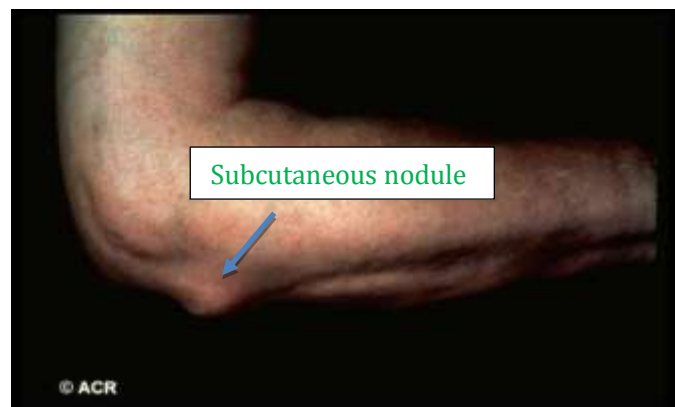
Swelling of interphalangeal joints

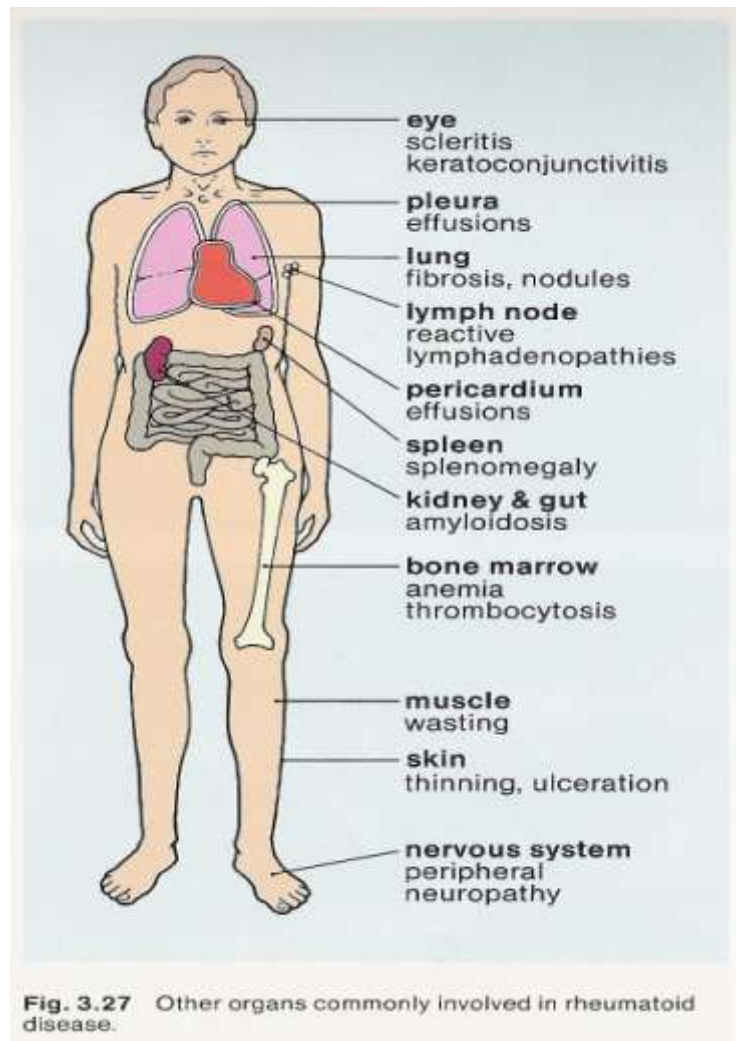
**Extra-articular manifestations(it is usually common in patients with long standing seropositive disease)**(seropositive means the presence of RA in serum)

- General(because it is systemic)
  - fever, lymphadenopathy, weight loss, fatigue.
- Dermatologic
  - Palmar erythema, subcutaneous nodules(usual site on bony prominence), vasculitis(causing rashes).
- Ocular
  - episcleritis/scleritis(frequently with seropositive), scleromalacia perforans(thinning and perforation of sclera), choroid and retinal nodules.
- Cardiac
  - Pericarditis, myocarditis, coronary vasculitis, nodules on valves.
- Neuromuscular
  - Entrapment neuropathy(compression like carpal tunnel syndrome), peripheral neuropathy, mononeuritis multiplex, cervical cord compression can result from atlantoaxial joint subluxation which makes procedure like endotracheal intubation contraindicated.
- Hematologic
  - Felty's syndrome(rheumatoid arthritis+ splenomegaly+ neutropenia), large granular lymphocyte syndrome, lymphomas.
- Pulmonary
  - pleuritis, nodules, interstitial lung disease(in the form of fibrosis), bronchiolitis obliterans, arteritis, effusions
- Others
  - Sjogren's syndrome (dryness of salivary and lacrimal glands), amyloidosis (deposition of amyloid in the tissue).



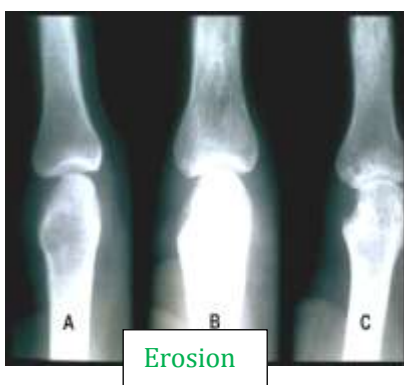
Small vessel vasculitis





**Investigations:**

- Hematology: CBC (anemia of chronic illness, thrombocytosis because of the active inflammation), ESR(high), Raised C- reactive protein.
- Biochemistry : LFT(before medication because some medications used in treatment may affect liver like methotrexate), Renal profile(as a baseline because NSAIDs may affect kidney function)
- Serology: Rheumatoid factor (RF) (IgM that is done routinely in lab, It is not specific) (if it's high it's associated with more severe diseases), Anti-CCP(anti cyclicciterenated peptide. Very specific to RA but not that sensitive)
- Radiography : Joints , Spines ,Chest



## Diagnosis:

### ACR(American college of rheumatology) 1987 Classification criteria for rheumatoid arthritis:

Patients must have 4 of 7 criteria:

- Morning stiffness lasting at least 1 hour (must be present at least 6 weeks)
- Swelling in 3 or more joints (must be present at least 6 weeks)
- Swelling in hand joints (must be present at least 6 weeks)
- Symmetric joint swelling (must be present at least 6 weeks)
- Erosions or decalcifications on x-ray of hand
- Rheumatoid nodules
- Abnormal serum rheumatoid factor

### The 2010 ACR / EULAR classification criteria for rheumatoid arthritis:

Target population (Who should be tested?): Patients who:

- 1) Have at least 1 joint with definite clinical synovitis (swelling)
- 2) With the synovitis not better explained by another disease

Add **A-D**; a score of **6/10 is needed to classify patient as having definite RA:**

#### **A. Joint involvement:**

1 large joint.	<b>0</b>
2-10 large joints	<b>1</b>
1-3 small joints (with or without involvement of large joints)	<b>2</b>
4-10 small joints (with or without involvement of large joints)	<b>3</b>
3-10 joints (at least 1 small joint)	<b>5</b>

#### **B. Serology (at least 1 test result is needed for classification):**

Negative RF <i>and</i> negative ACPA	<b>0</b>
Low-positive RF <i>or</i> low-positive ACPA	<b>2</b>
High-positive RF <i>or</i> high-positive ACPA	<b>3</b>

#### **C. Acute-phase reactants (1 test result is needed for classification):**

Normal CRP <i>and</i> normal ESR	<b>0</b>
Abnormal CRP <i>or</i> abnormal ESR	<b>1</b>

#### **D. Duration of symptoms:**

6 weeks	<b>0</b>
>6 weeks	<b>1</b>

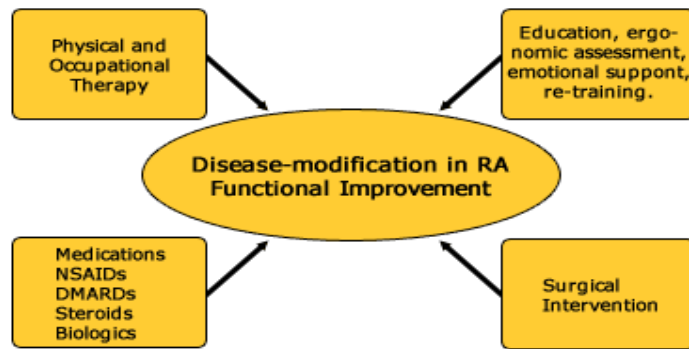


**Treatment:****Goals:**

- Relieve pain
- Reduce inflammation
- Prevent/slow joint damage
- Improve functioning and quality of life

**Approach:**

- Lifestyle modifications (example patient with RA living in third or fourth floor he has to move)
- Rest
- Physical and occupational therapy
- Medications
- Surgery

**Rationale for the Early Treatment of R.A:**

- Erosions develop early in the disease course
- Destruction is irreversible
- Disease activity is strongly associated with joint destruction later in the disease course
- Early treatment can slow down radiographic progress
- Disease activity must be suppressed maximally in its early stages to prevent destruction and preserve function

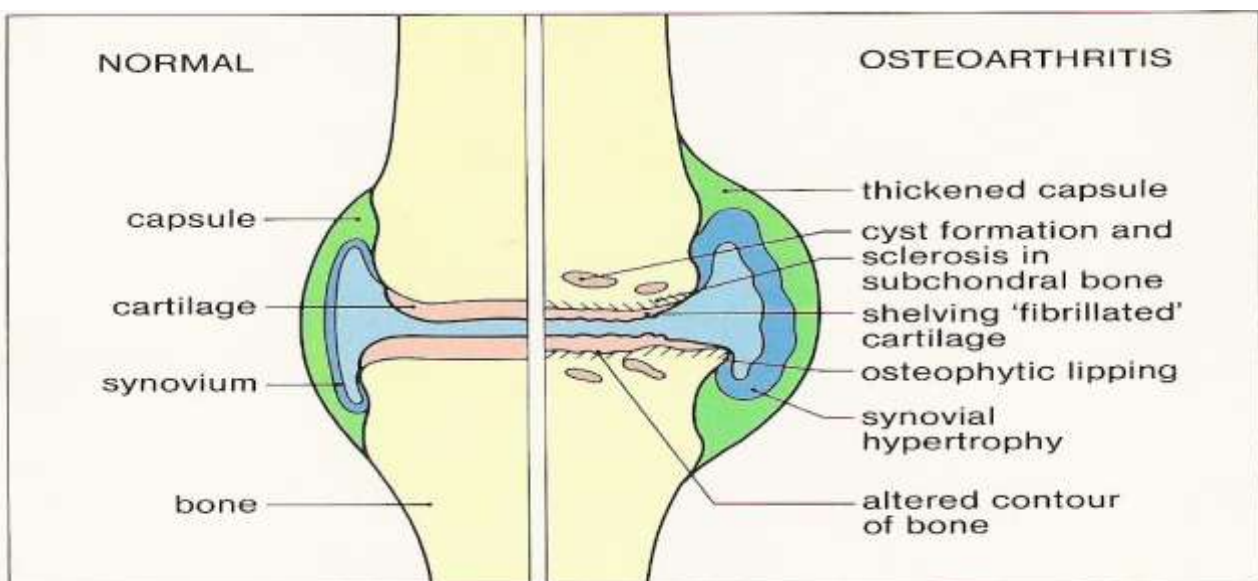
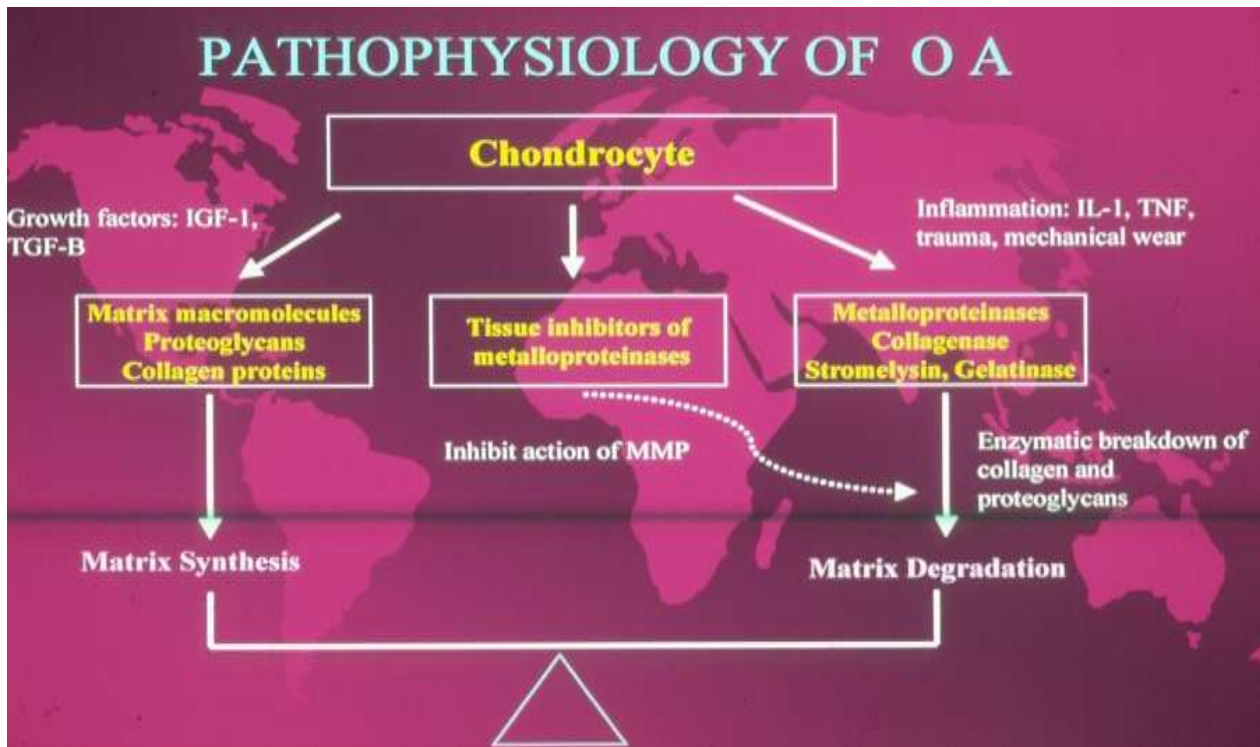
**Drug Treatments:**

1. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) (first line treatment)
  - Why? To relieve pain and inflammation
  - Traditional NSAIDs: Aspirin, Ibuprofen, Ketoprofen, Naproxen
  - COX-2 Inhibitors: Celecoxib, Rofecoxib (less side effects on GI)
  - Side effects: gastrointestinal
2. Disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) (second line)
  - Characteristics: No immediate analgesic effects. Effects generally not seen until a few weeks to months
  - Why? Control symptoms and Can delay progression of the disease (prevent/slow joint and cartilage damage and destruction)
  - Hydroxychloroquine: (immunomodulator)
    - Slow agent
    - mild non-erosive disease
    - combinations
    - 200 mg bid
    - eye exam every 6 months (because it causes deposition in the sclera)
  - Sulfasalazine: (immunomodulator)
    - 1 gm bid - tid
    - CBC, LFTs
    - onset 1 - 2 months

- Methotrexate: (immunosuppressive)
    - **most commonly used drug**
    - **fast acting (4-6 weeks)**
    - po, SQ - weekly
    - Monitor **CBC, LFTs**(because it can cause hepatocellular injury)
  - Other DMARDs: Leflunomide, Gold(not used anymore), Azathioprine.
3. Biologic response modifiers:
- Etanercept, Infliximab, Adalimumab, Tocilizumab
4. Corticosteroids

## 2. Osteoarthritis: (it's a degenerative disease of the cartilage)

Pathology:



**Etiology:** (it is not known but there are biomechanical factors)

**MULTIFACTORAL**

- Joint instability
- Age
- Hormonal factors
- Trauma
- Altered biochemistry (like hemochromatosis)
- Inflammation
- Genetic predisposition
- ? Others
- Secondary osteoarthritis:
  - Congenital or developmental diseases
  - Trauma
  - Inflammatory joint disease (RA)
  - Endocrinopathies
  - Metabolic disease
  - Neuropathic disorders
  - Avascular necrosis
  - Paget's disease

**Signs and symptoms:**

- Pain – worse on use of joint
- Stiffness – mild after immobility
- Loss of movement
- Pain on movement/restricted range
- Tenderness (articular or periarticular)
- Bony swelling
- Soft tissue swelling
- Joint crepitus

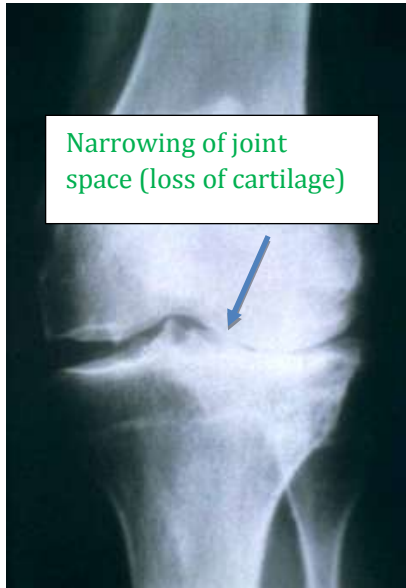
To differentiate between OA and RA: In OA there are no systemic manifestations like fever and weight loss.

**Radiological features:**

- Narrowing of joint space (Because the cartilage is loss)
- Osteophytosis (osteophyte formation as part of repair)
- Altered bone contour
- Bone sclerosis and cysts
- Periarticular calcification
- Soft-tissue swelling



Heberden's nodes which are bony swelling on distal interphalangeal joints, and Bouchard's Nodes in the proximal interphalangeal joint.



Narrowing of joint space (loss of cartilage)



Narrowing of disc space (loss of cartilage) can cause nerve compression and back or upper limb pain



## Management:

Confirm the diagnosis

Initial Therapy:

1. Physiotherapy
2. Weight loss
3. Local therapy (like local nonsteroidal creams)
4. Paracetamol

Second-line approach:

1. NSAIDs
2. Intra-articular therapy: steroids (we try to avoid in osteoarthritis because it's not a primary inflammatory disease but the degeneration can lead to inflammation so we use it), hyaluronate (it's lubrication to help with movement and reduce pain)
3. Opioids (very rare because it may lead to addiction)
4. ?glucosamines (some studies said it helps maintain the matrix of the cartilage but it's not proven)
5. Arthroscopy (we use arthroscopy because sometimes osteophytes break and dislodge and we use it to remove the osteophytes)
6. Surgery

**Summary:**Rheumatoid arthritis

Symmetrical deforming peripheral POLYarthritis/ HLA-DR4 linked disease/ peak onset at 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> decade.

**Presentation:** symmetrical swollen painful and stiff small joints of hands. Extra articular symptoms are fatigue, weight loss pericarditis, pleurisy.

**Signs:** early → swollen MCP, PIP, Wrist or MTP joints (often symmetrical)

Later → joint damage and deformity → ulnar deviation of fingers and dorsal wrist subluxation. Boutonniere and swan neck deformity or Z deformity of the thumbs occur. Atlantoaxial subluxation may threaten the spinal cord. **Extra-articular:** nodules-elbows and lungs; lymphadenopathy, vasculitis, fibrosing alveolitis, obliterative bronchiolitis, pleural and pericardial effusion, Raynaud's carpal tunnel syndrome, peripheral neuropathy, splenomegaly (5% and 1% have Felty's syndrome: RA+splenomegaly+ neutropenia) episcleritis, scleritis, scleromalacia, keratoconjunctivitis sicca, osteoporosis, amyloidosis. **Investigations:** RhF + in 70% → and high titer indicates a severe disease, erosions and extra-articular disease. Anti-ccp highly specific (~98%) for R. there's often anemia with chronic disease. inflammation causes ↑ platelets ↑ ESR ↑ CRP. **X-ray** soft tissue swelling, bony erosions, juxta-articular osteopenia, decreased joint space, later there maybe bony erosions, subluxation or complete carpal destruction. **Diagnostic criteria:** 4 out of 7: morning stiffness (>1 hour lasting > 6 weeks) arthritis ≥ 3 joints, arthritis of hand joints, symmetrical arthritis, rheumatoid nodules, +ve rheumatoid factor and radiographic changes. **Management:** page 8.

Osteoarthritis is the commonest joint condition

Female:male ratio 3:1

Onset typically >50 yrs. Usually primary (generalized), could be secondary to joint disease or other conditions (hemarthrosis, obesity, occupational)

**Signs and symptoms:** localized disease (usually knee or hip) pain on movement and crepitus, worse at end of day, background pain at rest; joint jelling- stiffens after rest upto 30mins; joint instability. Generalized disease (primary OA): with heberden's nodes (seen mainly post-menopausal) commonly affected joints are the DIP joints, thumb, CMC joints and knees. There maybe joint tenderness, derangement and bony swelling (heberden's nodes at DIP., bouchard's nodes at PIP) decreased range of movement and mild synovitis

**Investigations:** plain radiographs show loss of joint space, subchondral sclerosis and cysts and marginal osteophytes. CRP slightly elevated

**Management:** exercise to improve muscle strength and joint stability.

Regular paracetamol for pain → consider NSAIDS if paracetamol is ineffective

Weight loss if BMI >28 walking Aids, supportive footwear, physio, topical NSAIDS and capsaicin (derived from chillies). Joint replacement is the best way to deal with severe OA

## Questions:

A 60-year-old, mildly obese woman presents complaining of bilateral medial knee pain that occurs with prolonged standing. The pain does not occur with sitting or climbing stairs but seems to worsen with other activity and at the end of the day. The patient denies morning stiffness. Examination of the knees reveals no deformity, but there are small effusions. Some mild pain and crepitus is produced with palpation of the medial aspect of the knees. Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?

- a. Rheumatoid arthritis
- b. Gouty arthritis
- c. Chondromalacia patellae
- d. Osteoarthritis
- e. Psoriatic arthritis

The answer is **d. Osteoarthritis** most often affects the weight-bearing joints and is associated with obesity or other forms of mechanical stress. It has no systemic manifestations. It is more common in women and onset is usually after the age of 50. Pain often occurs on exertion and is relieved with rest, after which the joint may become stiff. Distal interphalangeal joints may be involved with the production of **Heberden nodes**. **Bouchard nodes** are often found at the proximal interphalangeal joint. **Crepitus** (the sensation of bone rubbing against bone) is often felt on examination of the involved joint. **Rheumatoid arthritis** is a systemic disease of women under the age of 40. Joint involvement is usually symmetric, involving the proximal interphalangeal and metacarpophalangeal joints. Ninety-five percent of gouty arthritis occurs in men and often involves the great toe.

### **Chondromalacia**

**patellae or chondromalacia** means softening of the cartilage.

Patients present with anterior knee pain and tenderness over the undersurface

of the patella. Pain is worse when sitting for long periods of time or when climbing stairs. Psoriatic arthritis is an asymmetric oligoarthritis that

involves the knees, ankles, shoulders, or digits of the hands and feet and occurs in 50% of patients with psoriasis.

A 25-year-old man presents with morning back pain and stiffness and tenderness over the sacroiliac joints. The patient denies any previous history of eye or genitourinary problems. On physical examination, there is diminished chest expansion with breathing. Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?

- a. Rheumatoid arthritis

- b. Ankylosing spondylitis
- c. Sjögren syndrome
- d. Systemic lupus erythematosus
- e. Reiter syndrome

The answer is b. **Ankylosing spondylitis** (Marie-Strümpel I arthritis) is a chronic and progressive inflammatory disease that most commonly affects the spinal, sacroiliac, and hip joints. All patients have symptomatic **sacroiliitis**. Other symptoms may include uveitis and aortitis. Men in the third decade of life are most frequently affected and there is a strong association with HLA-B27 (90%) in white patients. Patients with advanced disease present with a **bent-over posture**. A positive **Schober test** indicates diminished anterior flexion of the lumbar spine. Involvement of the costovertebral joints limits chest expansion and eye involvement may cause an iritis. Patients with **Reiter syndrome** may present with a history of conjunctivitis, urethritis, arthritis, and enthesopathy (Achilles tendinitis).