

ABOUT RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a **chronic, inflammatory autoimmune disease** that causes a range of symptoms, including pain and swelling in the joints.^{1,2a} RA affects the lining of the joints,³ particularly those in the hands, feet and knees and can cause irreversible joint damage.^{2b,4}

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

RA often affects smaller joints first (e.g., of the hands or toes). As the disease progresses, symptoms may spread to the wrists, knees, ankles, elbows, hips and shoulders.^{5a}

RA symptoms include¹:

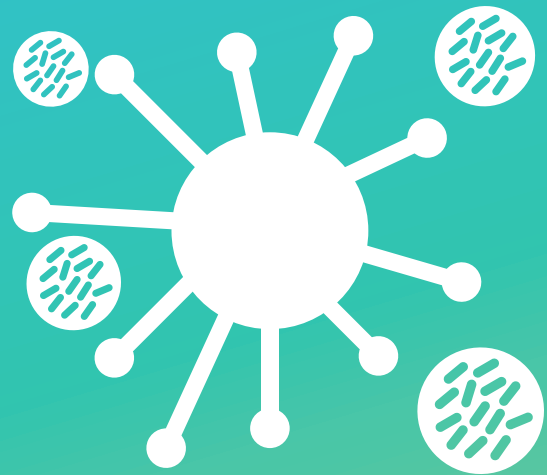


- Tiredness, fever and weight loss
- Stiffness, commonly in the morning
- Functional decline
- Joint pain and swelling, often occurring symmetrically (the same or similar joints are affected on both sides of the body)

Approximately **40% of patients** also experience signs and symptoms in areas of the body where there are no joints, such as the skin, eyes, lungs, heart and kidneys.^{5b}

CAUSES OF RA

The exact cause of RA is unknown. It is considered to be an autoimmune disease, where the immune system mistakes the body's healthy tissue for a threat and attacks it.^{2c}



PREVALENCE AND PATIENTS

RA affects approximately



17.6 M
people worldwide⁶

2.9 M
people in Europe⁷

In women, the most common age of onset is **between 30 and 60**, often occurring later in life for men.⁸

80-85%

of people with RA experience **joint damage** within the first few years of disease.⁹



Nearly 3x

as many women are affected by RA compared to men.⁸

REFERENCES

¹Lee DM, Weinblatt ME. Rheumatoid arthritis. *Lancet*. 2001;358:903-911.

²Medline Plus. Rheumatoid Arthritis. <https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000431.htm>. Accessed 14 September 2016.

a. Page 2/Paragraph 2/Symptoms/Line 1

b. Page 2/Paragraph 1/Symptoms/Lines 1-2

c. Page 1/Paragraph 2/Causes/Lines 1-2

³PubMed Health. Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA). <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMHT0024678/>. Accessed 14 September 2016.

⁴Suresh E. Diagnosis of early rheumatoid arthritis: what the non-specialist needs to know. *J R Soc Med*. 2004; 97(9): 421-424.

⁵Mayo Clinic. Symptoms and Causes. <http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/rheumatoid-arthritis/symptoms-causes/dxc-20197390>. Accessed 14 September 2016.

a. Page 1/Paragraph 2/Symptoms/Lines 1-4

b. Page 1/Paragraph 3/Symptoms/Lines 1-2

⁶Cross M, Smith E, Hoy D, et al. The global burden of rheumatoid arthritis: estimates from the Global Burden of Disease 2010 study. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2014;73:1316-1322.

⁷National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society. Living with RA. Work and Benefits. European Fit for Work report. <http://www.nras.org.uk/european-fit-for-work-report>. Accessed December 13, 2016.

⁸Arthritis Foundation. What is Rheumatoid Arthritis? <http://www.arthritis.org/about-arthritis/types/rheumatoid-arthritis/what-is-rheumatoid-arthritis.php>. Accessed 14 September 2016.

⁹Johns Hopkins Arthritis Center. Rheumatoid Arthritis. <http://www.hopkinsarthritis.org/arthritis-info/rheumatoid-arthritis/>. Accessed 14 September 2016.

