

## Disease profile of rheumatoid arthritis and its management

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### Abstract

Rheumatoid joint inflammation (RA) is an immune system, provocative illness that causes torment, growing, solidness, and loss of capacity in different joints (most normally in the hands, wrists, and knees). The individual joint's coating gets aroused, prompting tissue harm, just as constant torment, precariousness, and deformity. There is commonly a respective/balanced example of sickness movement (e.g., two hands or the two knees are affected). Rheumatoid arthritis can likewise influence extra-articular locales, including the eyes, mouth, lungs, and heart. Rheumatoid joint pain is an ongoing infection influencing up to 1% of populaces in created nations. Certain hereditary and natural variables seem to advance the improvement of rheumatoid arthritis, however patients can give heterogeneous signs and side effects. The objectives of any treatment for rheumatoid arthritis are the decrease of irritation and reduction of infection. In momentum practice, there are a biological and manufactured Disease Modified Anti-Rheumatic Drugs that can decrease infection seriousness. The rules give direct frameworks toward illness characterization, stepwise calculations for treatment, and proposals for development and observing dependent on reaction and Co-morbidities.

**Keywords:** rheumatoid arthritis, management, drugs

### Introduction

Rheumatoid arthritis is defined a systemic inflammatory disease which is characterized by persistent synovitis and production of auto-anti bodies against various factors, which includes rheumatoid factor and cyclic citrullinated peptide. Rheumatoid arthritis mostly affects the synovial lining of joints, although it targets the lungs, heart, blood vessels and including the other organ systems<sup>[1]</sup>. Rheumatoid arthritis results in substantial disability, loss of productivity, and increased mortality. In early disease function irreversible damage of joint and inflammatory changes are seen. In established Rheumatoid arthritis inflammation, pain, stiffness and fatigue are present<sup>[2]</sup>.

### Epidemiology

Epidemiology is the study of disease distribution and its determinants in human population. Incidence study is defined as study about all arising new cases in a defined period of time at specified population. Epidemiologic studies of risk factors fall into three major categories. 1. Prospective cohort studies. 2. Retrospective cohort studies. 3. case control studies<sup>3</sup>.

In, total adult population above 0.5– 1.0% of people are affected by Rheumatoid arthritis. This brings a heavy burden on healthcare systems<sup>[3]</sup>. Pathophysiology of rheumatoid arthritis is not correctly registered. Infective agents are indirect in this case of disease. Causative agents are identified same in some arthritis, such as reactive arthritis or Lyme disease. 60% risk of Rheumatoid arthritis is accounted by genetic factor. Female sex, smoking and people with shared epitope are included as major risk factor<sup>[4]</sup>.

### Pathogenesis

There are two significant subtypes of Rheumatoid Arthritis as per the presence or nonappearance of anti citrullinated

protein antibodies (ACPAs). Citrullination is catalyzed by the calcium-subordinate protein Peptidyl- Arginine-Deiminase (PAD), changing an emphatically charged arginine to a polar however, unbiased citrulline as the consequence of a post-translational adjustment<sup>[5]</sup>. Anti Citrullinated Protein Antibodies can be recognized in around 67% of Rheumatoid arthritis patients and fill in as a valuable symptomatic reference for patients with ahead of schedule, undifferentiated joint inflammation and give a sign of likely illness movement through to rheumatoid arthritis<sup>[6]</sup>. The Anti Citrullinated Protein Antibodies -positive subset of rheumatoid arthritis has a more forceful clinical aggregate contrasted with Anti Citrullinated Protein Antibodies -negative subset of RA.10 It is accounted for that ACPA-negative Rheumatoid Arthritis has distinctive hereditary affiliation patterns<sup>11</sup> and differential reactions of resistant cells to citrullinated antigens<sup>12</sup> from those of Anti Citrullinated Protein Antibodies -positive subset. The stages involved in pathogenesis are 1) Triggering stage 2) Maturation stage 3) Targeting stage 4) Fulminant stage.

### Etiology

The specific reason for rheumatoid arthritis is as yet unclear, yet qualities, ecological components, and hormones might be associated with its immune system improvement and progression<sup>[7]</sup>. Certain danger factors seem to build the danger of rheumatoid arthritis, including more seasoned age, sex (higher rate in ladies); Hereditary qualities such as human leukocyte antigen [HLA] class II genotypes, smoking, early life introductions if mother smoked, youngster has more serious danger of rheumatoid arthritis and heftiness (higher danger with expanding body weight<sup>[8, 9]</sup>). Patients who are seropositive for anticitrullinated protein antibodies (ACPAs) or rheumatoid elements (RFs) additionally have an expanded danger of rheumatoid arthritis<sup>[10]</sup>.

### Clinical Manifestations

The increase in susceptibility to develop clinical manifestations of rheumatoid arthritis is a combination of environmental and genetic factor <sup>[11]</sup>.

#### The Hand

Tender swelling on palpitation, several deformities, Boutonniere deformity, Swan neck deformity, dislocation of finger joints and tendons are associated with deformities, Small discrete, pocketed erosions near the capsular insertion.

#### The Knee

Muscle atrophy, Flexion contractures, Valgus instability, Large Bakers cysts, Inability to walk, Thrombophlebitis-like syndrome by popliteal cyst rupture.

#### The Hip

Osteopenia, Concentric articular cartilage narrowing, Hip pain, Severe disability, Hip abduction.

#### Bursal Involvement

The major cause of pain and functional impairment is bursitis. Early Rheumatoid arthritis shows olecranon bursitis commonly.

#### Constitutional Manifestations

Fatigue, Fever, Weight loss, Malaise

#### Variable Manifestations of Extra Articular Involvement

Rheumatoid nodules, Vasculitis, Hematologic abnormalities, Felty's syndrome <sup>[12]</sup>

#### Pathophysiology

The immune system and rheumatoid arthritis pathophysiology

In Rheumatoid arthritis, the synovial tissue is accumulated with naive and memory B cells, in which there B cells and high migratory capacity are cloned together and gets a continuous activation. Peripheral B-cells from Rheumatoid arthritis patients have a key molecule expression with high CD86 and low Fibroblast-like synoviocytes levels. ZAP-70 is an efficient molecule in T cell receptor signaling pathway includes the requirement of downstream effector molecules. T cell development and impaired response to TCR stimulation, distributed positive and negative thymic selection and reduced number of regulatory T cells are resulting from reduced mutation of two key scaffolding residues. Immune tolerance is regulated by regulatory T-cells. Anti-inflammatory therapy affects the complement cascade and it also activated by the macroparticles <sup>[13]</sup>.

#### The role of auto antibodies in the pathophysiology of Rheumatoid Arthritis

The antibodies that are associated with both genetic and environmental risk factors such as rheumatoid factors, anti-citrullinated protein antibodies, anti carbonylated protein antibodies that can be sub divided into sero positive and negative. At recent Anti Citrullinated Protein Antibodies plays a vital role in inflammation. Thus Anti Citrullinated Protein Antibodies could bind to the antigens in the synovial fluid which increases local inflammation <sup>[14]</sup>. Citrullination and carbonylation in the pathophysiology of

#### Rheumatoid Arthritis

Citrullination and carbonylation are responsible for the generation of immune response in auto immune disease Rheumatoid Arthritis. Since the process was still largely unknown but it has strong indication in modifying the proteins lung and gums that are induced by the environmental factors. In case of Rheumatoid Arthritis, many proteins are citrullinated in the inflamed joints <sup>[15]</sup>.

#### Diagnosis

The finding of Rheumatoid Arthritis depends on a high file of doubt dependent on a careful patient history and actual assessment.

In 2010, the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) and the European League against Rheumatism (EULAR) set forth the most current measures for the conclusion of Rheumatoid Arthritis <sup>[16]</sup>. The measures are (1) the number and site of included joints, (2) serologic anomalies (presence of rheumatoid factor or against citrullinated peptide/protein immunizer), (3) rises of incendiary markers (erythrocyte sedimentation rate as well as C-receptive protein [CRP]), and (4) the length of side effects <sup>[17]</sup>.

These tests incorporate rheumatoid factor (RF), antibodies to cyclic citrullinated peptides, incendiary markers, for example, the erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) and CRP, and fundamental lab work, for example, complete blood check and complete metabolic board <sup>[18]</sup>.

Ultrasonography, particularly with Doppler <sup>[19]</sup>. Computed tomography imaging can be helpful for showing hard pathology. Magnetic Resonance Imaging has the additional capacity to envision synovial or delicate tissue association and cartilaginous deformities <sup>[20]</sup>.

#### Pharmacological treatment

##### First line management

##### Non steroidal anti inflammatory drugs

Relieving pain and decreasing inflammation is a goal for first line management. Fast acting Non Steroidal Anti Inflammatory Drugs are Acetyl salicylate, Naproxen, Ibuprofen, etodolac. In high doses aspirin act as an effective anti inflammatory for Rheumatoid Arthritis because it inhibits the prostaglandins. It is prescribed for joint pain in rheumatoid arthritis. To prevent the synthesis of prostaglandins, prostacyclin and thromboxane it inhibits the cyclooxygenase enzyme. When it taken with food, antacid, proton pump inhibitor, misoprostol it decreases the symptoms.

##### Side Effects

Common side effects are nausea, abdominal pain, ulcer, gastro intestinal bleeding.

At high dose tinnitus, hearing loss, gastric intolerance occurs <sup>[21]</sup>.

##### Corticosteroid

Corticosteroid are more effective anti inflammatory medication than Non Steroidal Anti Inflammatory Drugs, but it has high side effects. So it is given only in low dose, when exacerbation and flares occurs. It reduces the inflammation by stopping the phospholipids and lowering the actions of eosinophils.

##### Side Effects

Bone thinning, weight gain, diabetes, immunosuppression.

Side effects get lowered by tapering the doses according to the patient's condition <sup>[21]</sup>. Do not discontinue oral or injected corticosteroids abruptly. It can lead to suppression of the hypothalamic pituitary-adrenal axis (HPA) or flares of rheumatoid arthritis <sup>[22]</sup>.

### Opioid Analgesics

In rheumatoid arthritis, pain is treated with weak opioids like codeine, dextro-propoxyphene and tramadol. These drugs act as a vital role. So it is used in short term management. They suggest that different analgesics are viewed as first <sup>[23]</sup>.

### Second line management

#### Disease modified anti rheumatic drugs

The general objective of second line treatment is to advance abatement by easing back or halting the movement of joint demolition and distortion. Prescriptions are viewed as moderate acting since they take from weeks to months to be successful. Disease modifying Anti-rheumatic Drugs additionally decrease the danger of creating lymphoma that can be related with rheumatoid arthritis <sup>[24]</sup>.

Methotrexate is the underlying second line drug (additionally considered as an anchor drug). It is a simple to folic corrosive that seriously restrains the authoritative of dihydro folic corrosive (FH<sub>2</sub>) to the chemical that is liable for changing over FH<sub>2</sub> to folinic corrosive (FH<sub>4</sub>). Methotrexate is an immunosuppressive medication that requires customary blood test because of its results of liver issues, cirrhosis and bone marrow crumbling <sup>[25]</sup>.

Hydroxychloroquine is an anti malarial sedate and can be utilized long term in the treatment of rheumatoid joint pain. This medication diminishes the emission of monocyte-determined proinflammatory cytokines <sup>[26]</sup>.

Sulfasalazine (Azulfidine) is a Disease Modified Anti Rheumatic Drug commonly utilized in the treatment of peevish gut illness. Joined with calming meds, this Disease Modified Anti Rheumatic Drug can be utilized to treat rheumatoid arthritis. The system of activity of this medication in the treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis has not been distinguished. It is believed that sulfa-pyridine, a decreased type of the drug after organization, may diminish discharges of interleukin (IL) - 8 and monocyte chemo-attractant protein (MCP). This medication has results of Gastro Intestinal and focal sensory system indications just as rash. It is normally all around endured among patients, yet should be evaded in patients with sulfa sensitivities since it contains sulfa and salicylate mixes <sup>[27]</sup>.

Gold salts, for example, aurothioglucose (Solganal), auranofin (Ridaura), gold sodium thiomalate (Myochrysine), and D-penicillamine (Depen and Cuprimine) have been utilized regularly in the treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis. These Disease Modified Anti Rheumatic Drugs require regular blood and pee tests because of harm deep down marrow and kidneys. They have not been utilized as of late because of the more compelling medicines, especially Methotrexate <sup>[28]</sup>. Other immunosuppressive drugs like azathioprine (Imuran), cyclophosphamide (Cytosan), chlorambucil (Leukeran), and cyclosporine (Sandimmune) can be utilized yet are normally held for patients with forceful Rheumatoid Arthritis or intricacies of the infection <sup>[29]</sup>.

### Newer Medications

Leflunomide is an oral drug that is changed over to malononitrilamide, which represses the union of ribonucleotide uridine monophosphate pyrimidine. It calms indications and retards the movement of Rheumatoid Arthritis. It is prescribed to be utilized in blend with MTX however can establish a monotherapy if patients don't react to Methotrexate <sup>[30]</sup>. Results incorporate hypertension, Gastro Intestinal steamed, liver harm, leukopenia, interstitial lung sickness, neuropathy, rash, and bone marrow harm <sup>[31]</sup>. Biologics, otherwise called Natural Disease Modified Anti Rheumatic Drugs, are quickly compelling in impeding the movement of the joint harm brought about by Rheumatoid Arthritis. They are viewed as a more "immediate, characterized and focused on" strategy for treatment <sup>[32]</sup>. In any case, biologics represent the issue of genuine results, for example, expanded danger of diseases. Other basic results incorporate neurologic sicknesses like various sclerosis and lymphoma <sup>[33]</sup>.

Tumor Necrosis factor (TNF) is a courier protein that advances aggravation in joints. Biologic drugs, for example, etanercept (Enbrel), infliximab (Remicade), adalimumab (Humira), golimumab (Simponi), and certolizumab pegol (Cimzia) are all TNF inhibitors that forestall the enrollment of the phones that cause aggravation, bringing fast indication alleviation. They are suggested if other second-line meds are not successful <sup>[34]</sup>. Sadly, these prescriptions will in general be pricey and their part in treating patients at different phases of Rheumatoid Arthritis and with different instruments of activity involves nonstop examination <sup>[35]</sup>. They are regularly utilized in mix with other Disease Modified Anti Rheumatic Drugs, particularly Methotrexate. TNF inhibitors are contraindicated in patients with congestive cardiovascular breakdown of demyelinating infections. Each biologic prescription has an alternate method of organization <sup>[36]</sup>.

Anakinra (Kineret) is a medication that is infused subcutaneously day by day. It works by official to Interleukin-1, a synthetic courier of irritation. It very well may be utilized in mix with other Disease Modified Anti Rheumatic Drugs or as a monotherapy, however due its low reaction rate contrasted with other biologics, it isn't utilized as regularly <sup>[37]</sup>.

Rituximab (Rituxan) is helpful in Rheumatoid Arthritis since it exhausts the B cells answerable for aggravation and the creation of unusual antibodies. Regularly utilized in the treatment of lymphoma, this medication can be utilized in instances of Rheumatoid Arthritis where TNF inhibitors have fizzled. Also, rituximab has indicated benefits in treating the inconveniences of Rheumatoid Arthritis, for example, vasculitis and cryoglobulinemia. It is regulated as an intravenous implantation in 2 dosages, fourteen days separated, like clockwork <sup>[38]</sup>.

Abatacept (Orencia) is a biologic prescription that works by hindering T cell actuation. This is given as an intravenous imbement once every month or subcutaneously once per week. It is utilized in patients who have not been viably treated with customary Disease Modified Anti Rheumatic Drugs <sup>[39]</sup>.

Tocilizumab (Actemra) is a biologic that works by hindering IL-6, a synthetic courier of irritation. It is managed by means of intravenous implantation given month to month or through week after week subcutaneous infusions. It is likewise utilized for patients who have not

been viably treated with conventional Disease Modified Anti Rheumatic Drugs<sup>[40]</sup>.

Finally, tofacitinib (Xeljanz) has an alternate instrument of activity and works by obstructing Janus kinases inside cells, which are chemicals of aggravation. Therefore, it is known as a JAK inhibitor. This drug is utilized for patients who have not been viably treated with Methotrxate. Tofacitinib is taken orally twice day by day, alone or in blend with Methotrexate. It not be utilized in blend with customary biologic prescriptions or other intense immunosuppressants<sup>[41]</sup>.

### Surgery

Joint a medical procedure in patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis arrived at a top during the 1990s. Be that as it may, a recent report demonstrated diminished paces of joint a medical procedure in RA patients 40–59 years old. Conversely, patients more established than 60 years had expanded paces of a medical procedure<sup>[42]</sup>.

A tenosynovectomy includes the extraction of excited ligament sheaths or fixing an ongoing ligament burst, most ordinarily in the hand<sup>[43]</sup>.

Radiosynovectomy is an option in contrast to careful synovectomy; it includes intra-particle infusion of little radioactive particles, is savvy, and can treat different joints at the same time<sup>[44]</sup>.

Another careful choice is osteotomy. In this methodology, weight-bearing bones are realigned to address valgus or varus distortions, most normally in the knee<sup>[45]</sup>. Metatarsal-head extraction arthroplasty is done to mitigate extreme forefoot torment. Ultimately, an absolute joint substitution includes eliminating the harmed joint and supplanting it with a metallic, plastic, or clay prosthesis. This is most usually done in the shoulder, elbow, wrist, hip, knee, and lower leg<sup>[46]</sup>.

### Non Pharmacological Management

The non pharmacological therapy mainly includes physical and rehabilitation interventions. It includes exercise, physical modalities, orthoses, dietary interventions, assistive devices and balneo therapy, Therapeutic patient education.

### Therapeutic Patient Education

It aims to educate the patient about their disease, treatment, movements to prevent joint, lifestyle changes.

### Exercise Therapy

Exercise and physical activity is essential in non pharmacological therapy. It increases the muscle strength aerobic capacity, improves joint range of movement, balance and flexibility. It is effective in cardiovascular fitness and muscle strength.

### Physical Modalities

The patient with inflammatory arthritis are advised for rehabilitation practice like heat, cold and other physical modalities which aims in relieving pain, stiffness, increase flexibility and restoring function, It include Thermotherapy, Electrotherapy, Low level laser therapy, whole body vibration.

### Orthoses

It is an externally applied device used to modify the structural and functional characteristic of neuro-muscular

and skeletal system. It includes Wrist hand orthoses, Foot orthoses and footwear

### Dietary Interventions

Its purpose include decreases in inflammatory process, increase in anti-oxidants modifying intestinal flora, elimination of offending foods.

### Balneotherapy

It includes mineral bath, mud packs, carbondioxide baths. The overall evidence was insufficient to prove that balneo therapy is effective<sup>[47]</sup>.

Various dietary plans are being projected; some are 7-10 days fasting, vegan or mediterranean diets.

### 7 Days Fasting Followed By Vegan Diet

The diet includes limited amount of vitamin, minerals, and carbohydrates. The diet contains vegetables broth, herbal teas, parsely, garlic, decoction of potatoes, carrot and celery juice followed by 1 year of vegan diet. The diet shows a remarkable decrease in swelling and tender joints, pain, erythrocyte sedimentation rate and C-reactive protein.

### Mediterranean Diet

The diet is rich in oleic acid, omega 3 fatty acid, unrefined carbohydrates and physicals to chemicals. The diet involves olive oil, cereals, fruits, vegetables, fish, legumes, less red meat and small amount of red wine. It shows reduced inflammation, vitality and physical function.

### Dietary Fibres and Whole Grains

Recommendation of dietary intake with limits of 14g per 1000 kcal 25 and 38g for adult for both sex, has health benefits.

### Fruits

The fresh fruits are rich in bioactive components and phytochemicals that are essential in reducing oxidative stress and inflammation. Other dietary includes, Spices, Essential Fatty Acid, Synbiotics-Probiotics, Prebiotics and Herbs<sup>[48]</sup>.

### Conclusion

Rheumatoid Arthritis, a typical immune system infection, is related to irritation and expanding of the synovium of the joint and, whenever left untreated, frequently results in destruction of both the hard and cartilaginous components of the joint and resultant inability. An assortment of comorbidities related to foundational aggravation adds to the expanded mortality found in patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis thought about with everybody. Despite the fact that the pathophysiology of Rheumatoid Arthritis isn't totally perceived, the cycle by and large includes dys-regulated aggravation, with hostile to- gen introduction, T-cell actuation, and autoantibody creation all filling in as middle people in the incendiary measure. Determination of Rheumatoid Arthritis depends on the patient his-conservative and actual assessment showing synovitis in various joints. Records of sickness movement have been developed to direct treat-to-target ways to deal with pharmacological intercession.

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