

How RA affect your joints?

- In RA the body's natural immune system starts attacking the healthy joint tissues. This leads to inflammation which causes pain, swelling and destruction of the joint.



How is RA treated?

- RA is divided into two different groups. Pain managers and disease treaters.
- Overall pain managers only go as far as their name suggests. They help to control the pain, but do not stop the progression of RA.
- Disease treaters can actually help to stop joint damage.
- RA is a progressive disease and joint damage may begin during the early years after the onset of RA.
- Within ten years of developing RA approximately half of patients are unable to work if not treated.
- It is very important to start advanced treatment as soon as possible.

For more information and appointment scheduling,
please call ext. **1712 / 1748**



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Everything you need to know about

RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Rheumatology
&
Physical Medicine Department

What is Rheumatoid Arthritis?

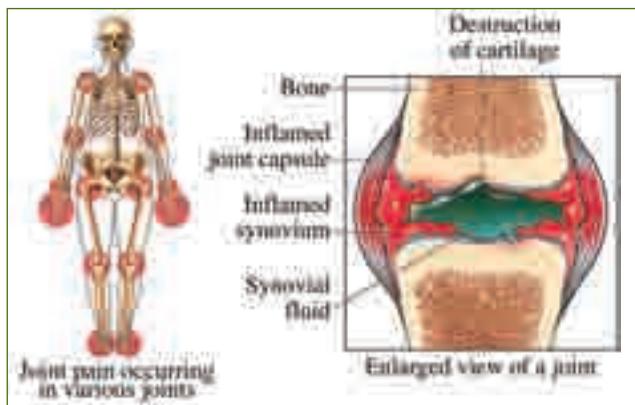
- Rheumatoid Arthritis is one of the most common forms of Arthritis, affecting many different joints in the body.
- It causes inflammation of the membrane lining the joint, which can trigger pain, stiffness, swelling, and can lead to joint damage.
- Over time, the damage the RA causes to joints typically results in pain and loss of movement.



What Causes RA?

- It is not yet known what causes RA. It is autoimmune disease that is somehow triggered in people who have an inherited tendency for the disease.
- The body attacks itself causing damage to the joints

Inflammation of the joint



In rheumatoid arthritis, white blood cells that are part of the normal immune system travel to the synovium and cause it to become inflamed.

What are the symptoms of RA?

- **The primary symptoms of RA include:**
 - Inflammation of the joints
 - Swelling
 - Difficulty moving
 - Pain in joints
- **Other potential symptoms of RA:**
 - Loss of energy / fatigue
 - Loss of appetite
 - Fever
 - Anemia



How is RA diagnosed?

- A diagnosis for RA typically comes from a rheumatologist, who takes into account a pattern of symptoms, your medical history, x-Rays, lab test, and physical exam.
- Physicians often conduct a lab test to screen for "rheumatoid factor", and antibody found in the blood of approximately 80% of people with RA.

