

# Welcome!

## RA Foundations

*Wendy Grant, MD*

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# Disclosures

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# Disclosures

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# Disclosures

## **COMPLETING THIS ACTIVITY**

Upon successful completion of this activity 1 contact hour will be awarded

Successful completion of this continuing education activity includes the following:

- Attending the entire CE activity;
- Completing the online evaluation;
- Submitting an online CE request.

Your certificate will be sent via email. If you have any questions about this CE activity, contact Tristan Stitt, [tstitt@cardeaservices.org](mailto:tstitt@cardeaservices.org)



# Session 1 Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview of Course Objectives: Jennifer Mandal, MD
- Digital storytelling presentation: LaToya Negrette
- RA in AI/NA populations
- RA treatment outline
- Classification criteria for RA

# Session Format

*Mondays, 12-1PM PST:*

## High-Yield Didactic

- ~30 minute didactic
- Taught by a rheumatologist

## Case-Based Group Discussion

- Brief case presentation
- Interactive discussion with learners, facilitated by expert RA Panel

*1-1:30PM:*

## Optional 30min "Office Hours"

- Held every other week

# Case Presentations:

- Please use the RA ECHO Case Presentation form
- Feel free to submit more than one case!
- **Patient Confidentiality: Please do not include any protected health information (PHI)**
  - Applies to Case Presentation forms, live discussions, office hours, and email communication
  - PHI includes patient name, date of birth, MRN, address, and any photos in which the patient is potentially identifiable

# Nuts & Bolts

- Please keep your video on (if your internet bandwidth allows)
- Please mute yourself when not speaking
- Sign in using the chat for attendance
- Fill out evaluation each session for CE credit
- We strongly encourage you to ask questions and offer your comments and insights to the group!
- Safe space for discussion and learning



# Didactic Curriculum

1. 9/11- RA Foundations
2. 9/18 - Distinguishing RA from OA
3. 9/25 - Lab and Xray Findings in RA
4. 10/2- Extra-Articular Manifestations of RA

***10/9 (Off, Indigenous Peoples' Day)***

5. 10/16 - RA Mimics
6. 10/23 - Baseline Studies and Considerations Prior to Treatment and How to Assess RA Disease  
Activity
7. 10/30 – Glucocorticoids, NSAIDs, and Other Conventional DMARDs
8. 11/6 - Methotrexate
9. 11/13- Biologic DMARDs
10. 11/20 - Wrap-Up

# Benefits of Consistent Participation in the RA ECHO:

- A well-rounded understanding of the diagnosis and management of RA
- The knowledge and confidence you need to change your practice and enhance the care of Navajo patients living with RA
- A supportive community of colleagues with a shared interest in rheumatology
- CE Credit (must fill out very short questionnaire at the end of each session)
- **For those who attend at least 9 of 12 sessions**
- A formal Certificate of Participation issued by the American College of Rheumatology (ACR)

# Contact information

- Program & Logistical Questions:

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- RA/Rheumatology Questions:

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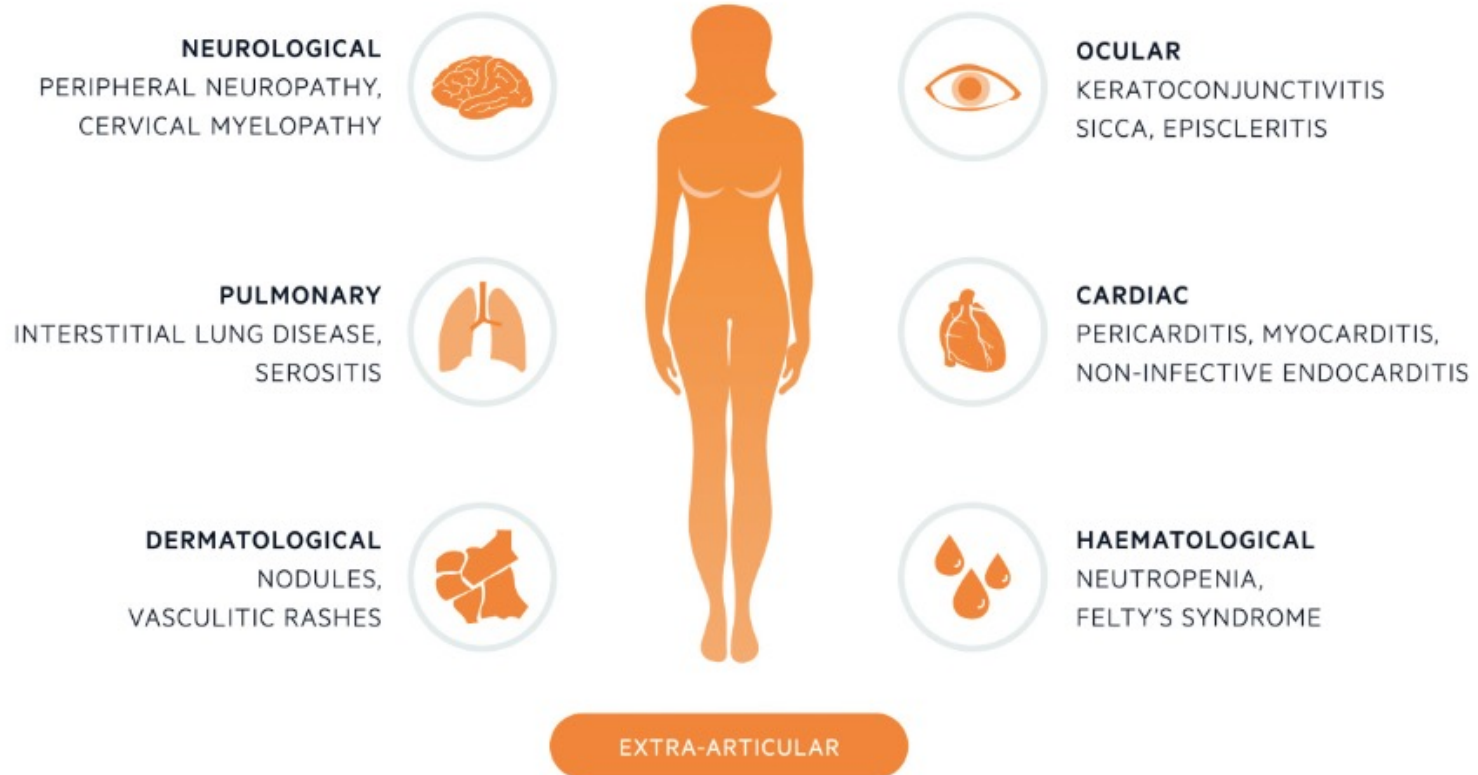
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# RA: the basics

- RA is a systemic autoimmune disease characterized primarily by a symmetric inflammatory polyarthritis
- The US prevalence is 0.5-1%, with some populations having significantly higher rates of disease
- Women:men 3:1
- Age of onset: 30-50 most common
- 1<sup>st</sup> degree relative confers 3X higher odds
- 2<sup>nd</sup> degree relative confers 2X higher odds

# Extra-Articular Manifestations of RA



# RA: pathogenesis

Likely a combination of genetic and environmental factors

Genetics:

HLA-DRB1 genes are most closely associated with RA

Environmental:

smoking (strongest known environmental RF for RA)

chronic mucosal inflammation (periodontitis) and possibly gut dysbiosis are potential RF

others: silica/other inhalants, sugary drinks, obesity, pollution

2 copies of the HLA-DRB1 gene + smoking = RR of 21

# RA in Native American Populations

The worldwide prevalence of RA is about 1%

The prevalence of RA in AI/AN populations is incompletely characterized but some epidemiologic surveys that define the prevalence and characteristics of RA in specific populations are available

# RA in Native American Populations

**Tlingit 2.4% (1991)**

1.3% male

3.5% female

**Yakima (1973)**

N/A male

3.4% female

*Boyer et al. Rheumatic Diseases in Alaskan Indians of the Southeast Coast. JRheum 1991;18:1477-84*  
*Beasley et al. High prevalence of rheumatoid arthritis in Yakima Indians. Arth Rheum 1973; 16:743-8*



# RA in Native American Populations

## Pima (1989)

3.2% male

7.0% female

## Chippewa (1981,1983)

4.8% male

8.2 % female

*DelPuente et al. High incidence and prevalence of rheumatoid arthritis in Pima Indians. Am J Epidemiol 1989; 129: 1170-8*

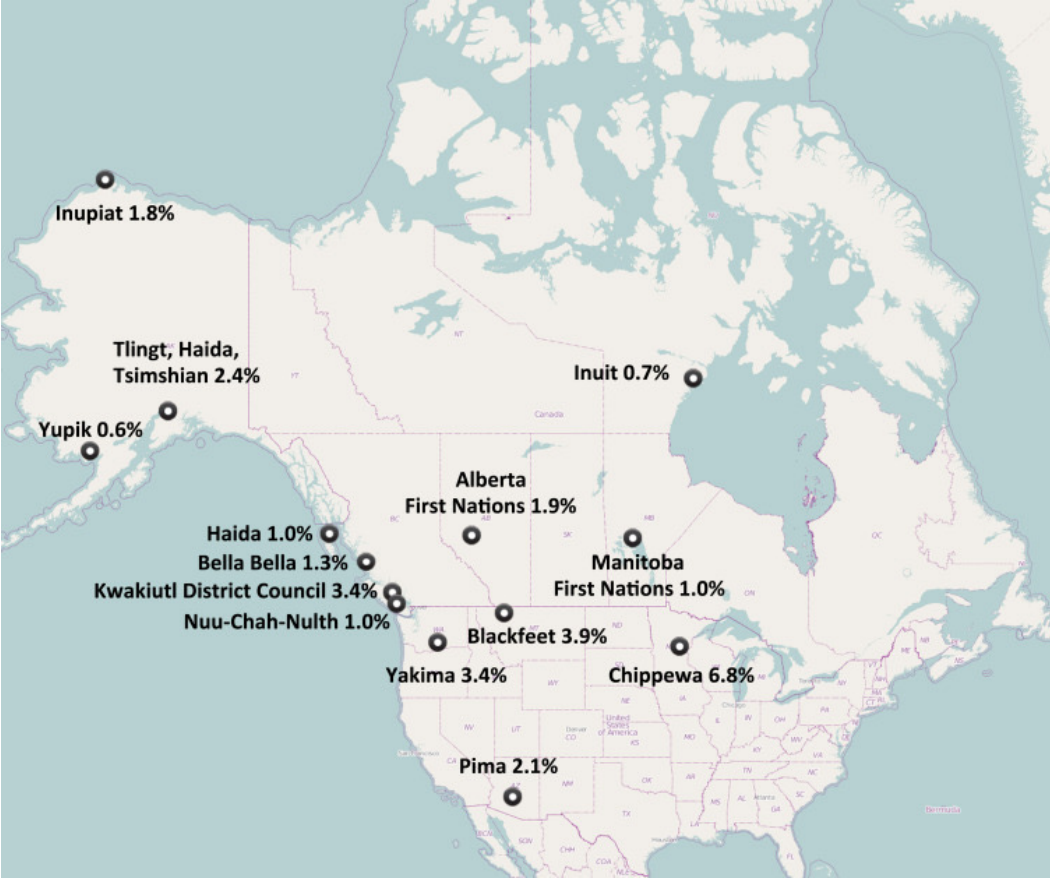
*Harvey et al. Rheumatoid arthritis in a Chippewa Band. Arthritis Rheum 1981; 24: 717-21*

# RA Epidemiology Among American Indians/Alaska Natives

**Table 1: Prevalence and Incidence Rates of Rheumatoid Arthritis in Caucasians and Native North Americans**

Population	Geographic Region	Prevalence	Annual Incidence
Pima Indians (22, 41, 54)	Arizona	2.5-5.3%	422/100,000
Chippewa Indians (4)	Central Minnesota	5.3%	—
Blackfeet Indians (40)	Montana	5% females, 4% males	—
Yakima Indians (43)	Central Washington	3.4% females	—
Tlingit, Tsimshian, & Haida Indians (6)	Southeast Alaska	2.4%	122/100,000 women 46/100,000 men
Algonkian Indians (44)	Central Canada	2.0%	—
Nuu-Chah-Nulth (12)	Vancouver Island	1.4%	—
Haida Indians (46)	Queen Charlotte Islands	1-1.5% females, 0.5-1% males	—
Inupiat Eskimos (6)	Northwest Alaska	1.0%	—
Yupik Eskimos (13)	Southwest Alaska	1.1%	—
Inuit Eskimos (11)	Northwest Territories	0.6%	48/100,000
National Health Examination Survey (37)	USA	1.6% females, 0.7% males, 0.9% total	—
Rochester (38)	Minnesota	1.0%	22/100,000 men 48/100,000 women
England (39)	England	1.1%	—

RA in Native American populations



# RA in Native American Populations

2010 study comparing NAN patients (Cree, Ojibway, Metis, Sioux, Dakota) to white patients with RA

20 years of follow up

In the NAN group:

- Younger age of onset in NAN

- Higher rate of RF positivity

- Higher rate of ANA positivity

- Higher lifetime number of DMARDs

- More frequent combination therapy

- More frequent prednisone use

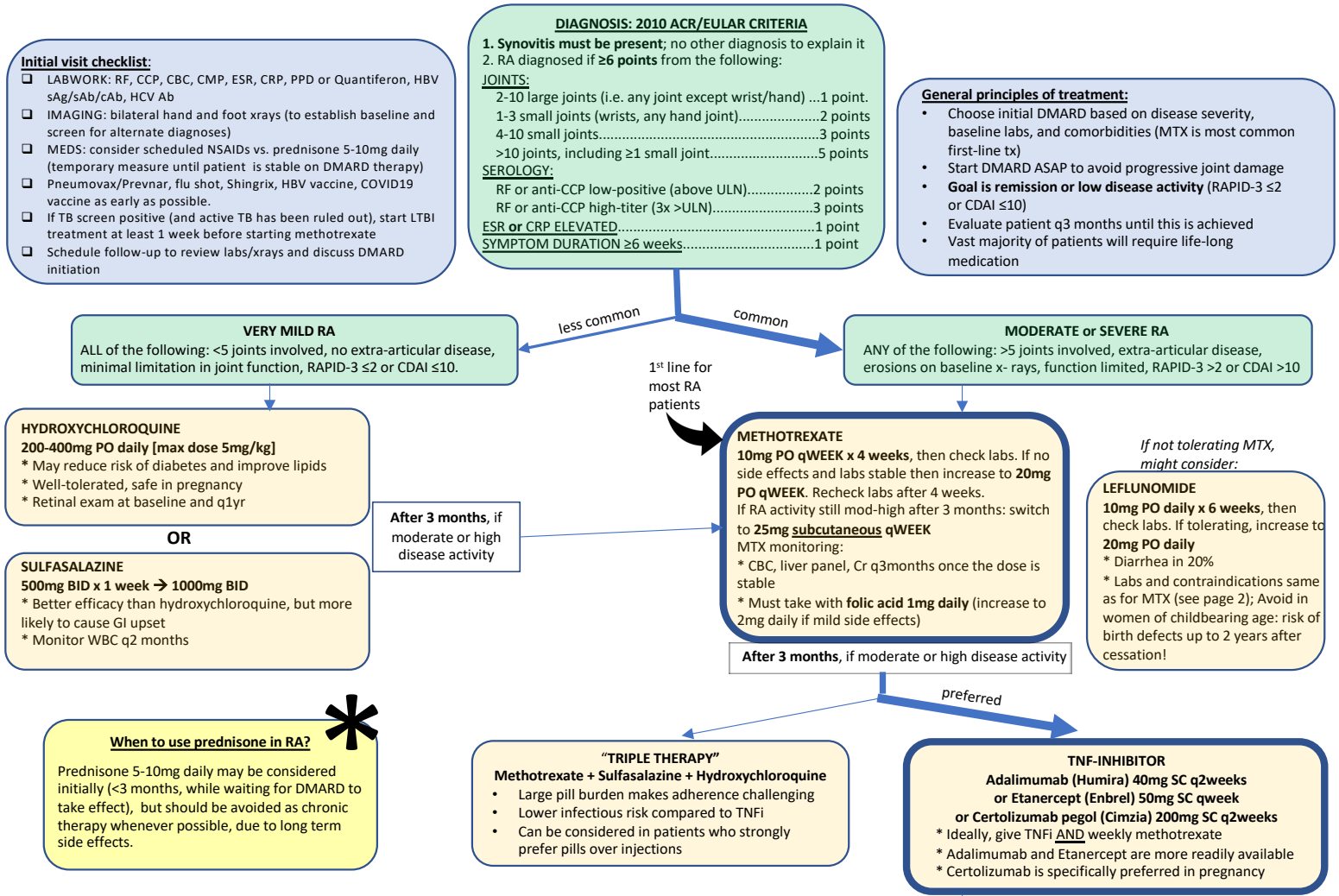
*Peschken et al. Rheumatoid arthritis in a North American Native population: longitudinal followup and comparison with a white population. JRheum 2010; 37: 1589-95*

**Table 3: Summary Of Unusual Clinical and Serological Features in Native North Americans With Rheumatoid Arthritis**

Tribal Group	Prevalence	Age at Onset (years)	RF Positive (%)	ANA Positive (%)	Shared Epitope Frequency		Comments
					RA Patients (%)	Controls (%)	
Tlingit (5, 47)	↑	51% <35	97	71	Dw16: 91 DR9: 18	Dw16: 85 DR9: 8	44% rheumatoid nodules 24% extraarticular features
Yakima (43, 53)	↑	Peak prevalence <35	94	53	Dw16: 83	Dw16: 60	50% rheumatoid nodules 100% erosive disease 64% stage IV x-ray changes
Chippewa (4, 48)	↑	58% <40	92	75	DR4: 100	DR4: 68	42% rheumatoid nodules

Peschken CA, Esdaile JM. Seminars in Arthritis and Rheum 1999;28:368–391.

# DIAGNOSIS & MANAGEMENT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: NAVAJO NATION



**When to use prednisone in RA?** \*

Prednisone 5-10mg daily may be considered initially (<3 months, while waiting for DMARD to take effect), but should be avoided as chronic therapy whenever possible, due to long term side effects.

**"TRIPLE THERAPY"**

**Methotrexate + Sulfasalazine + Hydroxychloroquine**

- Large pill burden makes adherence challenging
- Lower infectious risk compared to TNFi
- Can be considered in patients who strongly prefer pills over injections

**preferred**

**TNF-INHIBITOR**

**Adalimumab (Humira) 40mg SC q2weeks**  
**or Etanercept (Enbrel) 50mg SC qweek**  
**or Certolizumab pegol (Cimzia) 200mg SC q2weeks**

- \* Ideally, give TNFi **AND** weekly methotrexate
- \* Adalimumab and Etanercept are more readily available
- \* Certolizumab is specifically preferred in pregnancy

➔ If still not controlled, discuss second-line biologic options with a rheumatologist

Originally developed by: Sara K. Tedeschi, MD<sup>1</sup>; Paul Dellaripa, MD<sup>1</sup>; Anneliese Flynn, MD<sup>2</sup>; Michael Weinblatt, MD<sup>1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>Brigham and Women's Hospital, Division of Rheumatology, <sup>2</sup>Northern Navajo Medical Center

Updated in 2021 by: Jennifer Mandal, MD<sup>3</sup>; Wendy Grant, MD<sup>4</sup>; Mary Margaretten, MD<sup>3</sup>; John McDougall, MD<sup>5</sup>; 3UCSF Division of Rheumatology, 4Centura Health Rheumatology, Durango, CO; 5Northern Navajo Medical Center-Shiprock

## DIAGNOSIS: 2010 ACR/EULAR CRITERIA

1. **Synovitis must be present**; no other diagnosis to explain it
2. RA diagnosed if **≥6 points** from the following:

### JOINTS:

- 2-10 large joints (i.e. any joint except wrist/hand) ...1 point.
- 1-3 small joints (wrists, any hand joint).....2 points
- 4-10 small joints.....3 points
- >10 joints, including ≥1 small joint.....5 points

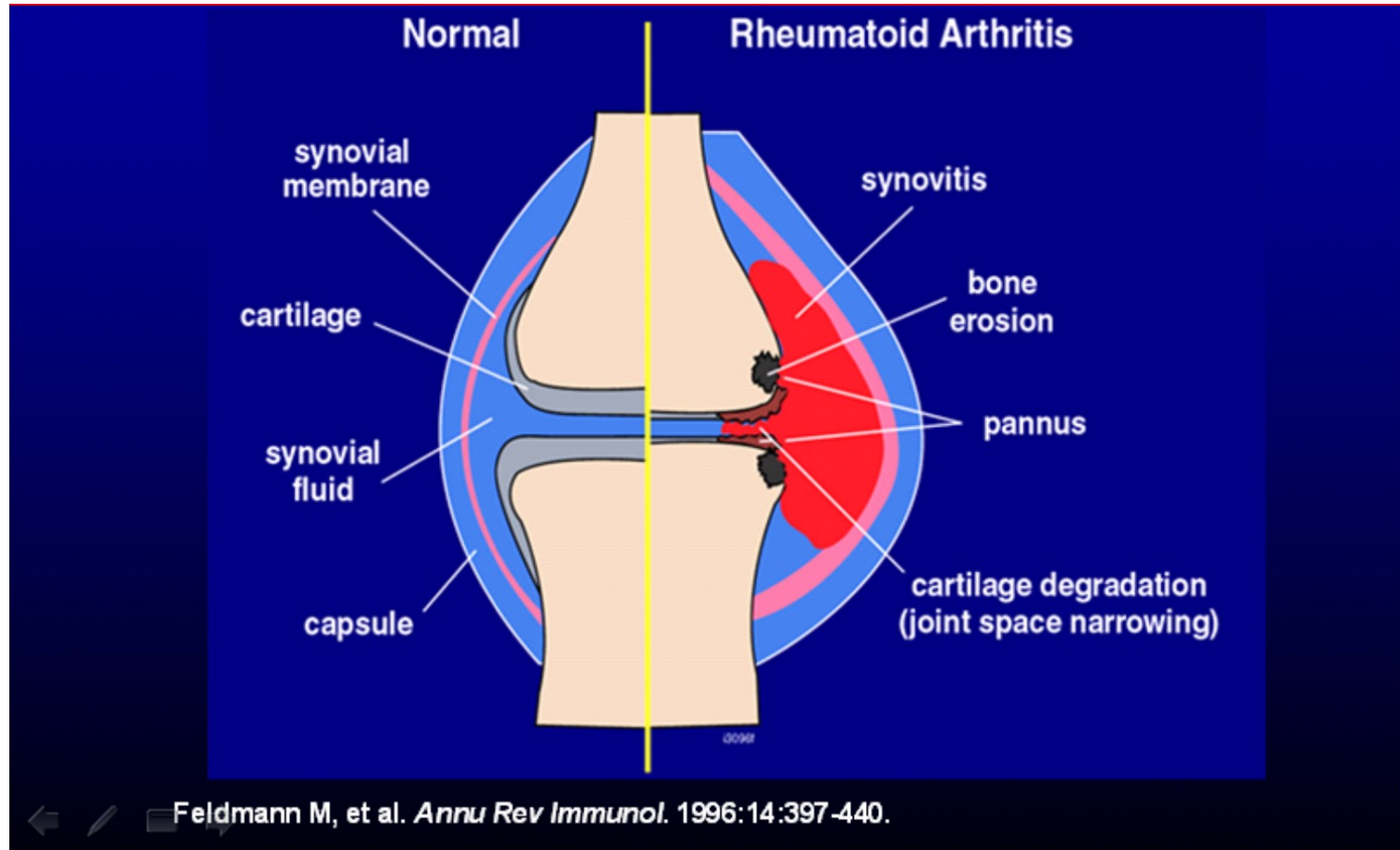
### SEROLOGY:

- RF or anti-CCP low-positive (above ULN).....2 points
- RF or anti-CCP high-titer (3x >ULN).....3 points

ESR or CRP ELEVATED.....1 point

SYMPTOM DURATION ≥6 weeks.....1 point

# Synovitis





# Scenario #1

- 34 year old woman
  - 2-3 months joint pain, stiffness in hands, feet, wrists
  - Better with movement, NSAIDs; worse in the morning or after inactivity
  - Exam: swelling and tenderness of both wrists, left index and third finger PIP joints
  - RF negative
  - CCP > 250
  - CRP 15



# Scenario #1

- 34 year old woman
  - **2-3 months** joint pain, stiffness in hands, feet, wrists 1
  - Exam: **swelling and tenderness** of both wrists; left index; third PIP joint 3
  - RF negative 0
  - CCP > 250 3
  - CRP 15 1

**This person has rheumatoid arthritis**

# Scenario #2

- 68 year old man
- 10 years of joint pain in the hands
- Exam: enlarged PIP and DIP joints; decreased flexion
- RF 34
- CCP negative
- Normal CRP



# Scenario #2

- 68 year old man
- 10 years of joint pain in the hands 1 point
- Exam: enlarged PIP and DIP joints; decreased flexion 0 points
- no synovitis
- RF 34 2 points
- CCP negative 0 points
- Normal CRP 0 points

**This person has osteoarthritis**

# Scenario #3

- 50 year old woman
- 3 months of pain in hands
- Exam: tenderness in several PIP and MCP joints; no obvious synovitis
- RF negative
- CCP 50 (normal < 20)
- CRP 12 (normal < 10)





# Scenario #3

- 50 year old woman
- 3 months of pain in hands 1
- Exam: tender joints; no obvious synovitis 0
- RF negative 0
- CCP 50 (normal < 20) 2
- CRP 12 (normal < 10) 1

**This person does not meet the criteria for RA, but should be followed closely**

A photograph of a herd of horses in a field. The sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds. The horses are of various colors, including brown, grey, and white. They are standing on a grassy field with some rocks. The text "Thank you all!" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Thank  
you all!

Please reach out to  
[raeinitiative@gmail.com](mailto:raeinitiative@gmail.com)  
with any feedback or questions.

## CE Credit Links:

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7508375/Rheumatoid-Arthritis-ECHO-Fall-2023>

