

TYPES OF ARTHRITIS AND RELATED RHEUMATIC DISEASES

There are more than 100 rheumatic diseases characterized by inflammation (signs are redness and/or heat, swelling, and pain) and loss of function of one or more connecting structures of the body. Others are known as autoimmune diseases because they occur when the immune system, which normally protects the body from infection and disease, harms the body's own healthy tissues. Types of Arthritis:

OSTEOARTHRITIS (This is the most common type of arthritis. It primarily affects cartilage, which is the tissue that cushions the ends of bones within the joint. The cartilage begins to fray and may entirely wear away. Osteoarthritis can cause joint pain and stiffness.)

RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (This inflammatory disease of the lining of the joint results in pain, stiffness, swelling, joint damage, and loss of function of the joints. Inflammation most often affects the hands and feet. It tends to occur equally on both sides of the body.)

JUVENILE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (The most common form of arthritis in childhood, causing pain, stiffness, swelling, and loss of function of the joints. It may be associated with rashes or fevers, and may affect various parts of the body.)

FIBROMYALGIA (A chronic disorder that causes pain throughout the tissues that support and move the bones and joints. Pain, stiffness, and localized tender points occur in the muscles and tendons, particularly those of the neck, spine, shoulders, and hips. Fatigue and sleep disturbances may be experienced.)

SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (Also known as lupus or SLE is an autoimmune disease. This can result in inflammation of and damage to the joints, skin, kidneys, heart, lungs, blood vessels, and brain.)

SPONDYLOARTHROPATHIES (This group of rheumatic diseases principally affects the spine. One common form, ankylosing spondylitis, affects the spine, but may also affect the hips, shoulders, and knees as the tendons and ligaments around the bones and joints become inflamed, resulting in pain and stiffness.)

Source: National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases



For more information regarding Arthritis and Arthritis-related programs, contact the Oklahoma Arthritis Network at 405/271-6127.

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