

OBJECTIVES FOR WEDNESDAY SEMINARS

Arthritis & Rheumatology Laboratory Investigations

1. To appreciate the importance of early recognition of inflammatory arthritis
2. To develop an organized, systematic approach to the assessment of patients with single or multiple joint complaints in both history and physical examination. Through efficient, focused, data gathering:
 - Differentiate articular from non-articular problems
 - Differentiate inflammatory from non-inflammatory joint disease
 - Recognize the sequence of joint involvement (additive, migratory or intermittent)
 - Recognize the common extra-articular features of systemic rheumatic diseases
3. To formulate a differential diagnosis for the following clinical presentations:
 - Monoarthritis
 - Polyarthritis
 - Chronic arthropathies with peripheral and axial involvement
 - Systemic rheumatic diseases
4. Demonstrate knowledge of, indication for and interpretation of commonly used laboratory tests for evaluation of rheumatic diseases, including:
 - Acute phase reactants
 - Rheumatoid factor, Anti-CCP antibodies
 - HLA B27
 - ANA and related autoantibodies
 - ANCA
 - Complements
 - Cryoglobulins
 - Other blood tests
5. To know the indications for joint & soft tissue aspiration and injections and synovial fluid analysis