

## *Rheumatoid Arthritis*

*Arnett et al. Arthritis Rheum 1988, 31:315*

1. Morning stiffness > 1 hour
2. Arthritis of  $\geq 3$  joint areas
3. Arthritis of hand joints (MCPs, PIPs, wrists)
4. Symmetric arthritis
5. Rheumatoid nodules
6. Serum rheumatoid factor
7. Radiographic changes

At least 4  
of 7 criteria  
have to be  
fulfilled

First four criteria must be present for 6 weeks or more





# Rheumatoid Arthritis

Criterion	Definition
Morning stiffness	In and around joints, lasting for at least one hour.
Arthritis of three or more joint areas	Observed by a physician simultaneously, with soft tissue swelling or joint effusions, not just bony overgrowth. The 14 possible joint areas involved are right or left proximal interphalangeal, metacarpophalangeal, wrist, elbow, knee, ankle, and metatarsophalangeal joints.
Arthritis of hand joints	Arthritis of wrist, metacarpophalangeal joint or proximal interphalangeal joint.
Symmetric arthritis	Simultaneous involvement of the same joint areas on both sides of the body
Rheumatoid nodules	Subcutaneous nodules over bony prominences, extensor surfaces or juxtaarticular regions observed by a physician.
Serum rheumatoid factor	Demonstration of abnormal amounts of serum rheumatoid factor by any method for which the result has been positive in less than 5% of normal control subjects.
Radiographic changes	Typical changes of RA on posteroanterior hand and wrist radiographs that must include erosions or unequivocal bony decalcification localised in or most marked adjacent to the involved joints.