



Clinical Updates on Rheumatoid Arthritis

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Message from the Guest Editor

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic inflammatory systemic disease induced by a complex interaction between shared epitope genes, microbiota, innate immune mechanisms, autoimmunity, and environmental factors, including tobacco, that primarily involves synovial joints, but that might also evolve into interstitial lung and cardiovascular diseases, and rarely, vasculitis. In recent years, the research progress has highlighted that there may be different RA patterns reflected by biopsy-based biomarkers and that are gender oriented. Furthermore, the advances in imaging technology, particularly MRI and ultrasonography, have led to an earlier diagnosis of active and erosive pre-radiographic disease. Recent guidelines for the treatment of RA include the use of JAK inhibitors along with the best known traditional biologic treatments, but the increasing number of therapies might be sometimes confounding. Hopefully, the possibility to match laboratory, gender, imaging, and histological characteristics and systemic disease might lead to a more tailored choice of treatment in the near future.





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