

An Overview on Rheumatoid Vasculitis

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Commentary

Rheumatoid vasculitis is a disease that causes inflammation of blood vessels. It occurs in people who have long-term rheumatoid arthritis (RA). RA is an autoimmune disease. Autoimmunity disorders are caused by problems with the immune system. The job of the immune system is to protect the body from illness. When you have an autoimmune disease; your immune system attacks your own body. RA usually first affects your joints. Blood vessels carry blood throughout the body. They send oxygenated blood from the heart to the body and return oxygen-requiring blood to the heart. It does not affect large blood vessels, except in rare cases. Damage to blood vessels can cause them to become clogged. This can result in insufficient oxygen supply to parts of the body. This can lead to organizational problems and death. Rheumatoid arthritis is just one type of vasculitis. There are many types. Vasculitis can occur in other autoimmune disorders such as lupus. Otherwise, it happens on its own.

The RA affects millions of Americans. This most commonly occurs in women between the ages of 40 and 60. Rheumatoid arthritis affects a small number of people with RA. Among people with RA, men are more likely to suffer from rheumatoid arthritis. Because of the superior treatments for rheumatoid arthritis, it may not be as common as it used to be. Researchers are nonetheless operating to apprehend what reasons rheumatoid vasculitis. The immune machine may be very complex. An aggregate of results in all likelihood result in rheumatoid vasculitis. Genes are in all likelihood a part of the cause.

In many cases, symptoms do not begin until a few years after receiving RA for more than 10 years. They often begin after a period of time when your joint disease is less active. Rheumatoid arthritis can affect blood vessels in many parts of the body. This can cause a variety of symptoms. Most commonly, it damages the skin, fingers, toes, nerves, eyes, and blood vessels of the heart. This reduces and damages blood flow to these areas. Many people with rheumatoid arthritis present with common symptoms such as fatigue, fever, and weight loss. These symptoms are also common in RA. However, people with rheumatoid arthritis are usually more severe. Other symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis include: sores on the skin (ulcers) Purple bruise Pain in fingers and toes Tissue death of fingers and toes (gangrene) Weakness in some parts of the body Loss of sensation in parts of the body Aching and pain in parts of the body Eye pain Red eye Blurred view Chest pain Arrhythmias, some of which can be fatal.

If you have RA, your doctor will assess you for rheumatoid vasculitis and other possible complications. There is also a physical examination. Your doctor will run a test to make sure your symptoms are not caused by another type of vasculitis or medical condition. These tests include: blood tests to check for inflammation Blood culture to look for infectious diseases Blood vessel biopsy Angiography to see blood vessels Other tests may be needed to look for damage to areas of the body that are supplied by the affected blood vessels. For example, you may need an electrocardiogram (ECG) to check the rhythm of your heart.

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