

# 16 Early Symptoms and Signs of Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a type of inflammatory arthritis. RA disease is characterized by chronic joint inflammation (in the fingers, hands, knees, feet, for example). RA may also be called rheumatoid disease because at times rheumatoid arthritis causes systemic illness that impacts many organs of the body.



**What are early signs and symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis, and what areas of the body are affected?**

- 1. Fatigue
- 2. Joint pain
- 3. Joint tenderness
- 4. Joint swelling
- 5. Joint redness
- 6. Joint warmth
- 7. Joint stiffness
- 8. Loss of joint range of motion
- 9. Many joints affected (polyarthritis)
- 10. Limping
- 11. Joint deformity
- 12. Both sides of the body affected (symmetric)
- 13. Loss of joint function

- 14. Anemia
- 15. Fever
- 16. Depression

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