

## 2nd QUARTER 2018 JOURNAL QUESTIONNAIRE

### ARTHRITIS AND THE FEET

Arthritis is a frequent component of complex disease processes that may involve more than 100 identifiable disorders. It is characterized by \_\_\_\_\_ of the cartilage and lining of the body's joints. If the feet seem more susceptible to arthritis than other parts of the body, it is because each foot has 33 joints which can be afflicted, and there is no way to avoid the pain of the tremendous weight-bearing load on the feet.

Arthritis may be a disabling and occasionally crippling disease; it afflicts almost 40 million Americans. In some forms, it appears to have \_\_\_\_\_ tendencies. While the prevalence of arthritis increases with age, all people from infancy to middle age are potential victims. People over 50 are the primary targets.

Arthritic feet can result in loss of \_\_\_\_\_ and independence. But that may be avoided with early diagnosis and proper medical care,

### WHAT IS ARTHRITIS?

Arthritis, in general terms, is inflammation and swelling of the \_\_\_\_\_ and lining of the joints, generally accompanied by an increase in the fluid in the joints. Arthritis has multiple cases; just as a sore throat may have its origin in a variety of diseases, so joint inflammation and arthritis are associated with many different illnesses.

### SOME CAUSES

Besides heredity, arthritic symptoms may have their source in a number of phenomena:

- They can be \_\_\_\_\_, having their origins in injuries, notably in athletes and industrial workers, especially if the injuries have been ignored (which injuries of the feet tend to be).
- Bacterial and viral infections can strike the joints. The same \_\_\_\_\_ that are present in pneumonia, gonorrhea, staph infections, and Lyme disease cause the inflammations.
- Arthritis can develop in conjunction with bowel disorders such as colitis and ileitis, frequently in the joints of the ankles and toes. Such inflammatory bowel diseases seem distant from arthritis, but their control can relieve arthritic pain.
- Drugs, both prescription and illegal street drugs, can induce arthritis

- Arthritis can be part of a congenital autoimmune disease syndrome, of undetermined origin. Recent research has suggested, for instance, that a defective \_\_\_\_\_ may play a role in osteoarthritis.

## SYMPTOMS

Because arthritis can affect the structure and function of the feet it is important to see a Podiatrist if any of the following symptoms occur in the feet:

- Swelling in one or more joints
- Recurring pain or tenderness in any joint
- Redness or heat in a joint
- Limitation in motion of joint
- Early morning stiffness
- Skin changes, including rashes and growths

## SOME FORMS OF ARTHRITIS

OSTEOARTHRITIS is the most common form of arthritis. It is frequently called \_\_\_\_\_ joint disease or “wear and tear” arthritis. Although it can be brought on suddenly by an injury, its onset is generally gradual; aging brings on a breakdown in cartilage, and pain gets progressively more severe, although it can be relieved with rest. Dull, throbbing nighttime pain is characteristic, and it may be accompanied by muscle weakness or deterioration. Gait patterns-normal walking-may grow erratic.

It is a particular problem for the feet when people are overweight, simply because there are so many joints in each foot. The additional weight contributes to the \_\_\_\_\_ of cartilage and the development of bone spurs.

RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (RA) is a major crippling disorder, and perhaps the most serious form of arthritis. It is a complex, chronic inflammatory system of diseases, often affecting more than a dozen smaller joints during the course of the disease, frequently in a \_\_\_\_\_ pattern-both ankles, or the index fingers of both hands, for example. It is often accompanied by constitutional signs and symptoms – lengthy morning stiffness, fatigue, and weight loss – and it may affect various symptoms of the body such as the eyes, lungs, heart, and nervous system.

Women are three or four times more likely than men to suffer RA, indicating a linkage to heredity.

RA has a much more \_\_\_\_\_ onset than osteoarthritis. It is characterized by alternating periods of remission, during which symptoms disappear, and exacerbation, marked by the return of inflammation, stiffness, and pain. Serious joint \_\_\_\_\_ and loss of motion frequently result from acute rheumatoid arthritis. However, the disease system has been known to be active for months, or years, then abate, sometimes permanently.

GOUT (GOUTY ARTHRITIS) is a condition caused by a build up of the salts of \_\_\_\_\_ - a normal byproduct of the diet-in the joints. A single big toe joint is commonly the focus, possibly because it is subject to so much pressure in walking; attacks of gouty arthritis are extremely painful, perhaps more so than any other form of arthritis. Men are much more likely to be affected than women, an indication that heredity may play a role. While a rich diet that contains lots of red meat, rich sauces, and brandy is popularly associated with gout, there are other protein compounds in such foods as lentils and beans that may play a role.

## DIAGNOSIS

Different forms of arthritis affect the body in different ways; many have distinct systemic affects that are not common to other forms. Early diagnosis is important to effective treatment of any form, Destruction of cartilage is not \_\_\_\_\_, and if the inflammation of arthritic disease isn't treated, both cartilage and bone can be damaged, which makes the joints increasingly difficult to move. Most forms of arthritis cannot be cured, but can be controlled or brought into remission; perhaps only five percent of the most serious cases, usually of rheumatoid arthritis, result in such severe crippling that walking aids or wheelchairs are required.

## TREATMENT

The objectives in the treatment of arthritis are controlling inflammation, preserving joint function (or restoring it if it has been lost), and curing the disease if that is possible.

Because the foot is such a frequent target, the Podiatrist is often the first physician to encounter some of the complaints-inflammation, pain, stiffness, excessive warmth, injuries. Even \_\_\_\_\_ can be manifestations of arthritis.

Arthritis may be treated in many ways. Patient education is important. Physical therapy and exercise may be indicated, accompanied by medication. In such a complex disease system, it's no wonder that a wide variety of drugs have been used effectively to treat it; likewise, a given treatment may be very effective in one patient and almost no help at all to another.

\_\_\_\_\_ is still the first-line drug of choice for most forms of arthritis, and the benchmark against which the efficacy of a host of therapies is measured.

The control of foot functions with shoe inserts (orthoses), or with braces or specially prescribed shoes, may be indicated. Surgical interventions is a last resort in arthritis, as it is with most disease conditions; the replacement of damaged joints with artificial joints is a possible surgical procedure.

Fill in the blanks with these words

- Degenerative acute inflammation
- Cartilage bunions aspirin
- Uric acid hereditary organisms
- Deformity symmetrical gene
- Deterioration traumatic reversible
- mobility

16-14 correct answers = 5 credits

13-11 correct answers = 4 credits

10-7 correct answers = 3 credits

6-4 correct answers = 2 credits

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