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Arthralgia

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Arthralgia (from Greek *arthro-*, joint + *-algos*, pain) literally means *joint pain*;[1][2] it is a symptom of *injury*, *infection*, *illnesses* (in particular *arthritis*) or an *allergic reaction to medication*.^[3]

According to *MeSH*, the term "arthralgia" should only be used when the condition is non-inflammatory, and the term "arthritis" should be used when the condition is *inflammatory*.^[4]

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Arthralgia	
Classification and external resources	
Specialty	Rheumatology
ICD-10	M25.5
ICD-9-CM	719.4
DiseasesDB	15237
MedlinePlus	003261
MeSH	D018771
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Causes [edit]

The causes of *arthralgia* are varied and range, from a joints perspective, from degenerative and destructive processes such as *osteoarthritis* and sports injuries to inflammation of tissues surrounding the joints, such as *bursitis*.^[5] These might be triggered by other things, such as infections or vaccinations.^[6]

Cause	Mono- or polyarticular	Speed of onset
Rheumatoid arthritis	Polyarticular ^[7]	Weeks-months ^[8]
Systemic lupus erythematosus	Polyarticular ^[7]	Months ^[9]
Viral arthritis	Polyarticular ^[7]	
Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome	^[10]	
Reactive arthritis	Polyarticular ^[7]	
Rheumatic fever	Polyarticular ^[7]	
Lyme disease	Polyarticular ^[7]	
Gonococcal arthritis	Polyarticular ^[7]	
	^[7]	

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Drug-induced arthritis	Polyarticular	
Ligamentous laxity	Polyarticular ^[7]	
Osteoarthritis	Monoarticular ^[7]	
Gout attack	Monoarticular ^[7]	Hours ^[11]
Pseudogout	Monoarticular ^[7]	
Behcet's Disease	Monoarticular ^[7]	
Physical trauma	Monoarticular ^[7]	Immediate
Septic arthritis	Monoarticular ^[7]	Hours ^[11]
Hemarthrosis	Monoarticular ^[7]	

Diagnosis ^[edit]

Diagnosis involves interviewing the patient and performing [physical exams](#). When attempting to establish the cause of the arthralgia, the emphasis is on the interview.^[2] The patient is asked questions intended to narrow the number of potential causes. Given the varied nature of these possible causes, some questions may seem irrelevant. For example, the patient may be asked about [dry mouth](#), [light sensitivity](#), [rashes](#) or a history of [seizures](#).^{[2][12]} Answering yes or no to any of these questions limits the number of possible causes and guides the physician toward the appropriate exams and lab tests.

Treatment ^[edit]

Treatment depends on a specific underlying cause. The underlying cause will be treated first and foremost. The treatments may include [joint replacement](#) surgery for severely damaged joints, [immunosuppressants](#) for immune system dysfunction, antibiotics when an infection is the cause, and discontinuing medication when an allergic reaction is the cause. When treating the primary cause, pain management may still play a role in treatment.^[13] The extent of its role varies depending on the specific cause of the arthralgia. Pain management may include stretching exercises, over the counter pain medications, prescription pain medication, or other treatments deemed appropriate for the symptoms. [Capsaicin](#), a substance found in [chili peppers](#), may relieve joint pain from arthritis and other conditions. Capsaicin blocks the actions of [substance P](#), which helps transmit pain signals, and capsaicin triggers the release of pain-blocking chemicals in the body known as [endorphins](#). Side effects of capsaicin cream include burning or stinging in the area where it is applied. Another topical option is an arthritis cream containing the ingredient, methyl salicylate ([Bengay](#)).

See also ^[edit]

- [Myalgia](#)

References ^[edit]

1.

[^]

["Arthralgia Definition"](#) . *MedicineNet.com*. [Archived](#)  from the original on 11 October 2007. Retrieved 2007-09-20.

[a](#)

[b](#)

[c](#)



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10. ^ <http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/ehlers-danlos-syndrome/basics/definition/con-20033656/>

11. ^ *a b* Page 740 (upper right of page) in: Schaidler, Jeffrey; Wolfson, Allan B.; Gregory W Hendey; Louis Ling; Carlo L Rosen (2009). *Harwood-Nuss' Clinical Practice of Emergency Medicine (Clinical Practice of Emergency Medicine (Harwood-Nuss))*. Hagerstwon, MD: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. ISBN 0-7817-8943-5.

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V T E	Diseases of joints (M00–M19, 711–719)	[show]
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Categories: Rheumatology

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