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The Nature of Rheumatoid Disease

Rheumatoid Disease is Systemic

The Arthritis Trust considers the nearly 100 rheumatoid diseases -- including Rheumatoid Arthritis -- as a systemic disease. Since the disease can affect any organ or system in the body, manifestation of symptoms produced give rise to the various name classifications often misconstrued as totally separate diseases. Breaking physician health specialties into different practices according to parts of the body affected lends even more credence to the illusion that separate and distinct diseases are presented.

According to the late Roger Wyburn-Mason, M.D., Ph.D., and one of this foundation's founders, the history of tuberculosis demonstrates how misleading can be the identifying of diseases by name according to the body part affected. Prior to the discovery of the tubercle bacillus there were 100 different diseases named depending upon the body part affected. After identification of the tubercle bacillus, all of these different names collapsed into one -- tuberculosis! -- although now it is called TB of the bone, TB of the lung, TB of the skin, and so on. We believe that this is what has happened to the disease known as Rheumatoid Arthritis. There are 100 apparently different diseases, each with its own distinct and misleading name. By knowing that the disease is systemic, and may manifest with differing symptoms in any organ or system, we've collapsed all those names into one which we now call "Rheumatoid Disease."

A One-to-One Correspondence May Not Exist Between Causation and Symptoms

In the lists that follow, the different bodily systems are shown together with disease names that are often used to describe various disease conditions but may often be forms of Rheumatoid Disease. Rheumatoid Disease can affect any part of the body!

Do not be misled by the other extreme, however. While any of the following bodily systems can stem from Rheumatoid Disease causations, other sources can create some of the same conditions! A good example is infestation by Candidiasis. Perhaps 50% or more of Rheumatoid Disease victims suffer from systemic overgrowth of *Candida albicans* or similar organisms, often due to sustained stress, use of antibiotics and/or birth control tablets, or, most likely, cortisone. Although Candidiasis can present, among other symptoms, the same symptoms presented by Rheumatoid Disease, Rheumatoid Disease will not necessarily be Candidiasis. Clearing up Candidiasis and/or food allergies might very well clear up Rheumatoid Disease symptoms, but not necessarily the other way around.

If one does clean out candidiasis and the victim recovers, did the arthritic suffer from Rheumatoid Disease or Candidiasis or what?

Similarly, Food Allergies can present with Rheumatoid Disease symptoms, but Rheumatoid Disease symptoms do not necessarily present with Food Allergy conditions.

Rheumatoid Disease may cause Headaches, but Headaches may be caused by a multiplicity of other factors.

Rheumatoid Disease may cause plugging up of arteries, or other heart problems, but these conditions can be caused by other agents.

And so on ---!

Two Traditional Accepted Medical Hypotheses

Internal medicine textbooks often accept two general over-simplified hypothesis for the cause of Rheumatoid Arthritis, and related Rheumatoid Diseases. These are:

1. There is something wrong with the immune system. In this view, one must search for and try out various

Medical data is for informational purposes only. You should always consult your family physician, or one of our referral physicians prior to treatment. "immunomodulators," drugs that will shake up or somehow change the immune system.

2. The body is responding to a foreign invader. There is an antigen/allergen (foreign protein) inside the body that the body has produced an antibody to protect against. In this view one must search out the various microorganisms that produce the antibodies and/or allergens that the body is defending against.

While perhaps there is some truth in both ideas, only the second hypothesis has produced genuine, long-lasting remissions and cures of those afflicted via treatments developed by many physicians over the years, the latest being Thomas McPherson Brown, M.D. and Roger Wyburn-Mason, M.D., Ph.D.

The first hypothesis has only produced a constant stream of drugs that have in the long run damaged the arthritic victim further.

Again, as told by Professor Roger Wyburn-Mason, the history of syphilis demonstrates that syphilis could have been considered as a perfect example of an "auto-immune" disease -- until the discovery of the syphilis spirochete! Of course, it is now accepted as being an infectious disease. But, had the syphilis spirochete not been discovered, think of the billions of dollars that might have been spent trying to "modulate" the "defective" immune system!

With the above thoughts in mind, and by means of some subjective judgment based on clinical experiences of various medical doctors, the following classification of "arthritides" has been prepared so that you can know the nature of, and extent of, what this foundation calls "Rheumatoid Disease."

Systems Affected by Arthritis

The systems affected by arthritis are:

Arteries: Polyarteritis, (Periarteritis)

Bone: Osteitis Deformans, (Paget's Disease), cysts, myelomas

Brain and Cord: Tremors, seizures

Bronchi: Bronchitis, intrinsic asthma

Cardiac: Dysrhythmias, myocardial disease,
pericardial disease

Cecum: Appendicitis, mesenteric adenitis

Colon: Ulcerative colitis

Endocrine: Thyroid, parathyroid, thymus, pituitary, adrenal, gonads

Esophagus and Stomach: Atrophic mucosa
(pernicious anemia), webs

Eyes: Iridocyclitis, exophthalmias

Fascial Planes: Bursitis

Female Genitals: Ovarian cysts, fibroids,
salpingitis-sterility, tubal pregnancies

Functional CNS: Neuroses, psychoses senility

Hemopoetic: Systemic lupus erythematosus, polycythemia, purpura

Joints: Arthritis

Kidneys: Pyelonephritis, calculi

Liver: Hepatitis, cholangitis, gallbladder disease

Lower Small Gut: Regional enteritis, Crohn's
disease

Lungs: Alveolitis

Lymphatics: Lymphomas, splenomegaly

Meninges: Headache, meningomas

Muscles: Myositis

Nerves: Trigeminal neuralgia, [multiple sclerosis]

Nose and Throat: Rhinitis, eustachian salpingitis, enlarged tonsils, & adenoids, etc.

Ovum: Fetal deformities, abortions

Pancreas: Pancreatitis, maturity diabetes, noninsulin dependent diabetes

Salivary & Tear Glands: SICCA syndrome

Skin: Psoriasis, alopecia, erythemas, urticaria

Tendons: Tendinitis, ganglion

Upper Gut: Celiac disease