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## Rheumatoid Arthritis Associated Cardiovascular, Kidney and Lung Diseases: Recent Available Treatments

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### ABSTRACT

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic inflammatory autoimmune disease attacks the synovial lining of diarthrodial joints and cause formation of pannus tissue. The chemical mediators for the mechanism of RA are IL-1, IL-6, TNF-, IL-1 $\beta$ . The uncontrolled release of these mediators are responsible for causing other severe diseases. The uncontrolled RA with chronic inflammation may cause cardiovascular diseases, interstitial lung disease, renal dysfunction. As still there is no cure for RA, the treatment purpose is the reduction of the pain and stop or reduction in further damage. Initiation of treatment particularly by the combination of disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) followed by short duration of corticosteroid to prevent the progressive course and even damage. The recent available treatment can slow down the disease activity of RA.

## INTRODUCTION

Rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic, symmetrical, inflammatory autoimmune disease that initially affects the small joints, progressing to larger joints and eventually the skin, eyes, heart, kidney and lungs.<sup>1</sup> At the local inflammatory site, namely the joint, disturbances in cytokine and chemokine pathway lead to an immune infiltrate that contributes to the increased proliferation of joint fibroblasts, synoviocytes & to the chronicity of inflammation.<sup>2-3</sup> The proinflammatory mediators for the pathogenesis of RA are IL-1  $\beta$  (Interleukin 1 beta), TNF-  $\alpha$  (Tumor necrosis factor) IL-6 (Interleukin 6).<sup>4-5</sup>

One percentage of the total population was affected by RA.<sup>6-7</sup> And more found in womens over 65 years.<sup>8</sup> RA is primarily affects the synovial lining causing progressive disability, premature death and socioeconomic burdens.<sup>9</sup>

### Arthritis and Cardiovascular diseases

The uncontrolled RA with chronic inflammation results in functional disability. Among those extraarticular features are cardiovascular diseases such as pericarditis, cardiomyopathy/ myocarditis, cardiac amyloidosis, coronary vasculitis, arrhythmia, diseases of the valve and most notably congestive heart failure.<sup>10</sup> Womens with RA is having 2-3 folds more risk to produce myocardial infraction, even if traditional coronary risk factors are not present.<sup>11-12</sup> In the addition to associated morbidity, there is increased chance of mortality because the patients affected have a lower life expectancy compared to general population mainly due to the cardiovascular changes, which is the most common cause of death.<sup>9</sup> Patients with RA have higher risk of developing coronary artery disease ( CAD) compared to the general population.<sup>13</sup> similar in magnitude to the risk imparted by diabetes mellitus.<sup>14</sup> RA patients appear to have different levels of CAD, with higher cardiovascular factors including smoking prevalence and altered lipid profile compared to the general population. During periods of high-grade inflammation, the lipid profile in RA is characterized by suppression of total and LDL cholesterol levels, with a proportionately greater suppression of high-density lipoprotein (HDL) levels, resulting in an unfavorable ratio of total to HDL cholesterol. There is a paradoxical relationship between lipid levels and CAD risk in RA, as lower lipid levels are associated with more severe systemic inflammation, which in turn is associated with increased CAD risk. The factors responsible for heart disease in RA patients are abnormal immunity and chronic inflammation.<sup>15</sup>

In RA patients, the high incidence of cardiovascular disease appears to be close to that seen in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus.<sup>16</sup> Silent myocardial infarction is seen more in RA patients than non-RA patients.<sup>14</sup> The risk of coronary plaques is greater even in the absence of a coronary artery disease medical history.<sup>17</sup>

A contributing role is played by both conventional cardiovascular risk factors (e.g., hypertension, obesity, dyslipidemia, and Mellitus diabetes) and increased systemic inflammation.<sup>18</sup> Approximately 30–40% of RA patients in the U.S. also obtained a TNF antagonist as a monotherapy or as a combination of different drugs. TNF-inhibitor treatment in RA patients seems to be associated with a lower risk of all coronary heart disease occasions.<sup>19</sup>

Rheumatoid arthritis has a number of respiratory symptoms, along with parenchymal pulmonary disease (ILD) and pleura inflammation (pleural thickening and effusions), airways and pulmonary vasculature (vasculitis and pulmonary hypertension). Such changes can also indicate chronic immune activation, enhanced vulnerability to infection (regularly correlated with immunomodulatory drugs) or direct toxicity arising from disease enhancement or biological therapy.<sup>20</sup>

### **Rheumatoid arthritis associated lung disease**

For individuals with severe RA, rheumatoid arthritis-related lung disease (RA-ILD), the most common form of rheumatoid lung disease, happens more frequently. A post-mortem analysis of eighty-one people, seventeen percent died of respiratory failure owing to long-standing RA, while 34 percent showed signs of ILD.<sup>21-22</sup> Rheumatoid arthritis has a variety of respiratory symptoms along with pulmonary parenchymal disease (interstitial lung condition (ILD)) and pleura inflammation (pleural thickening and effusions), flight and pulmography syndrome. Such improvements may also indicate chronic immune activation, increased contamination vulnerability (regularly correlated with immunomodulatory drugs) or specific disease-modifying toxicity or organic remedy.<sup>20</sup>

The effectiveness of RA-ILD in RA patients is roughly 10 percent in females and 6 percent in adult males, based on national mortality statistics in the United States.<sup>23</sup> Age has been consistently proven to be a risk variable of ILD development. Smoking history of one study showing a 3.8 odds ratio of people who smoked for > 25 million years is another major risk factor.<sup>24</sup> Heavy range rheumatoid factors are a recognized risk factor for multiple articular

forms of rheumatoid arthritis, along with ILD. Lung disease is a first-rate contributor for RA morbidity and mortality. RA-ILD's clinical appearance and symptom range is usually identical to that of interstitial idiopathic pneumonias (IIPs), despite the fact that pathology has pointed to differences.<sup>25</sup> In certain cases, there may also be respiratory symptoms precede articular signs. Treating systemic and articular signs and symptoms of connective tissue disease is important for the pulmonologist when treating an affected person in case of lung disease of uncertain aetiology as patients may also start with pulmonary sign gift. The maximum common lung disorder (ILD) is not the simplest, but also the maximum extreme form of lung involvement in RA. Radiographic changes including fibrosis and physiological changes including restraint or decreased dissemination of pulmonary symptoms may also precede signs over years; however, when medically evident, ILD is associated with giant mortality.<sup>26</sup> There is a range of pulmonary manifestations of rheumatoid arthritis along with pulmonary paralysis. These modifications can also reflect chronic immune activation, accelerated susceptibility to contamination (often related to immunomodulatory medicines) or direct toxicity from disease modifying or biological therapy. Prognosis varies relying on the kind and severity of involvement.

ILD is the most prevalent pulmonary type of rheumatoid arthritis of the lung disease, despite the fact that the precise occurrence varies based on the examined population and the clinical procedure used to identify the condition. In an Australian cohort of patients with < 2 years of rheumatoid arthritis, 58% of these patients had stable improvements to ILD on both chest radiographs, excessive-decision computed tomography (HRCT), pulmonary screening (PFT), bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) and or Tc-DTPA (technetium-99 m-labeled diethylenetriamine pentaacetate) tests. Of the above cases, 76% had an illness that was medically mute.<sup>27</sup> A more recent look at 40 patients, also with < 2 years of disorder, the anomalies were found in HRCT scans and/or PFTs occurred in 45 percent, with 10 percent of patients suffering from clinically severe illness.<sup>28</sup> Currently it is predicted that < 30 percent of patients with rheumatoid arthritis have subclinical ILDs noted on HRCT scans.<sup>23,29</sup> While the price of a few larger-articular patients is predicted to have subclinical ILDs.<sup>30-31</sup> Whether this indicates an improvement in treatment or is the result of drug-induced lung disease with a greater use of anti-rheumatic marketing is not always completely clean. The pulmonary fibrosis mechanism that exists in ILD is not always well known. Typically, patients with rheumatoid arthritis have autoantibodies that circulate, Rheumatoid and anti cyclic citrullinated peptide is the most unusual. (CCP). For many years before medical ailment

initiation, such antibodies can be present in the serum.<sup>32,33</sup> Anti-CCP antibodies have also been associated with the development of airway disorder both rheumatoid factor and anti-CCP. There is evidence that rheumatoid arthritis begins to evolve in the lungs, a concept supported by a subgroup of patients who are nice anti-CCP with lung disease but do not have articular manifestations.<sup>38-39</sup> In addition, a shape of reactive lymphoid tissue called inducible bronchus-associated lymphoid tissue (BALT) was observed in patients with rheumatoid arthritis-related.<sup>40</sup> The acute respiratory appearance may also indicate acute interstitial pneumonia (AIP), ILD exacerbation (with recognised or previously unknown pre-existing disorder), inflammation in immunosuppressed host infection, drug response, or a combination of these.<sup>41</sup> Recent research the protein content of tissue samples was analyzed which is collected from patients biopsies of the lung and synovial. The pulmonary fibrosis process that exists in ILD is not well known.<sup>32</sup>

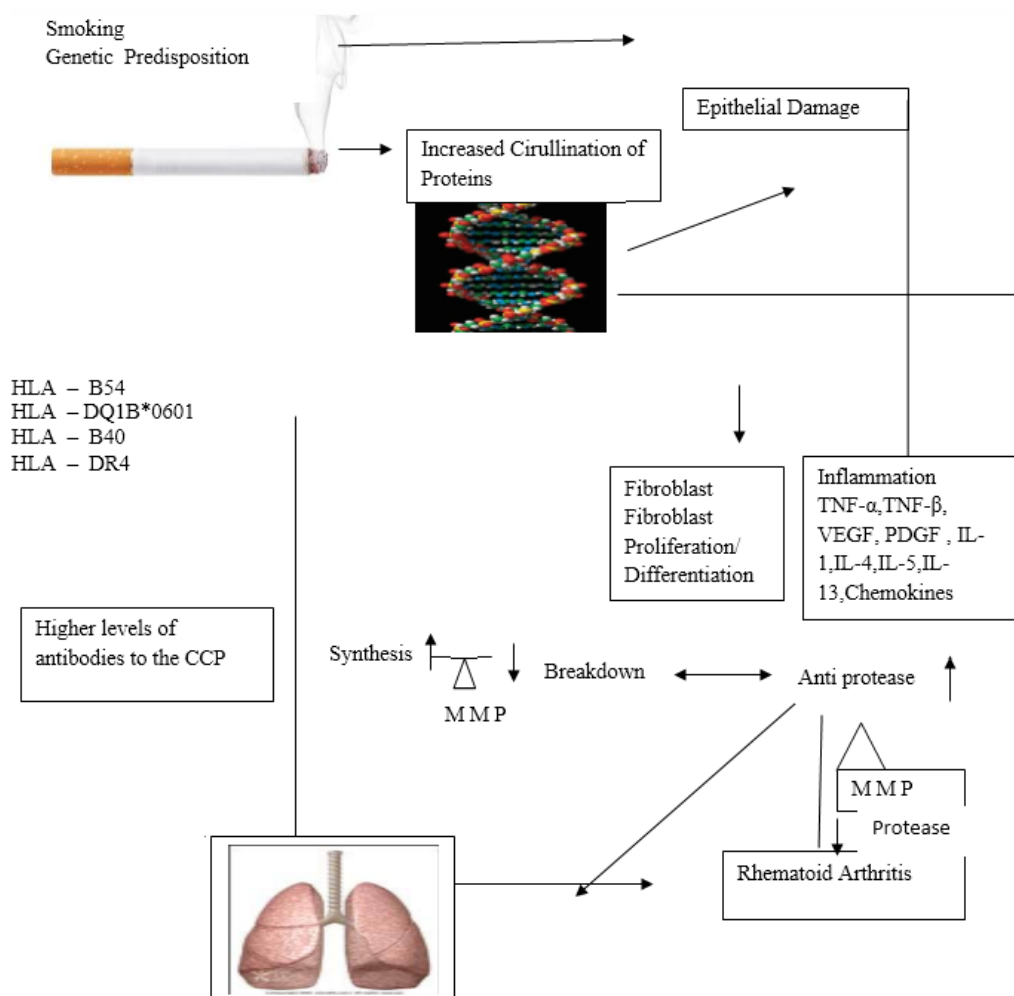


Figure No. I: The development of ILD Associated with Rheumatoid arthritis

The development of ILD was associated with both the rheumatoid factor and the anti-CCP, in particular in the case of high Anti-CCP antibodies..<sup>29,34,35,36,42</sup>

### **Renal dysfunction in Rheumatoid arthritis**

Renal activity is one of the most severe challenges in the treatment of patients with RA due to its prognostic cost and rehabilitation implications.<sup>43-44</sup> 18 percent of patients with rheumatology in hospitals were estimated to have a glomerular filtration price (GFR) of 60 ml/minute or less relative to the 5 percent recorded in the normal population.<sup>45</sup> Although it was reported to be a large filtration price (GFR). RA patients additionally have proteinuria, hematuria, and renal disorder, the figures stated for the prevalence and Renal significance incidence varies depending on the criteria of the infection and the populations studied.

Renal dysfunction causes in patients with RA appear to be arguable. Previous research on renal biopsy findings and clinicopathological associations found that the highest critical RA patients pathologic results included secondary amyloidosis, membranous nephropathy consistent with the use of antirheumatic drugs, mesangial glomerulonephritis likely related to RA alone, and typically increasingly creative glomerulonephritis associated rheumatoid vasculitis.<sup>48-50</sup> Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a serious chronic systemic inflammatory disease in patients with RA. The CKD-RA relationship should be explained by some situations involving residual amyloidosis, glomerulonephritis or drug-related use.<sup>49-50</sup>

### **Pathogenesis of Arthritis**

Depending on the presence or absence of anti-citrullinated protein antibodies (ACPAs), fundamental subtypes of RA exist. Using the calcium-structured enzyme peptidyl-arginine-deiminase (PAD), citrullination is catalyzed, converting a definitely charged arginine into polar but impartial citrulline as a result of a submitted-translational modification. ACPAs can be found in around 67% of RA patients and serve as a valuable medical guideline for patients with early, undifferentiated arthritis and as a predictor of potential disease progression through RA.<sup>51-52</sup> The ACPA-nice branch of RA has much more active medical phenotype relative to the ACPA-poor subset of RA.<sup>53</sup> It has been documented that ACPA-poor RA has specific genetic association styles<sup>54</sup> and differentiated immune cell responses to citrullinated antigens compared to those of the ACPA-positive subset.<sup>55</sup>

### **Future drug therapies for RA**

The extent to which inhibition of the JAK / Signal Transducers and Transcription Activators (STAT) pathway on my own can adequately suppress mobile- mediated immune inflammation to provide a permanent clinical remission can be a major challenge in the further development of new RA therapies. In this regard, most of the evidence now collected during the last decade has shown that mere suppression of JAK / STAT seasoned-inflammatory cytokine activation in patients with RA might be needed but not sufficient for clinical remission. Most of the evidence now collected during the last decade has shown that mere suppression of JAK / STAT seasoned-inflammatory cytokine activation in patients with RA might be needed but not sufficient for clinical remission. This approach should be even more effective when a "personalized molecular remediation" model is established whereby both serum and synovial RA patients have been completely identified before the start of pharmaceutical therapy for expanded seasoned-inflammatory cytokines and for specific protein kinases selected SMI on which cytokine and/or signaling pathology repercussions are focused.<sup>56</sup> We have recently suggested that defective ICD of non-JAK / STAT and ' go-communicate ' protein kinase tracts (SAPK / MAPK) and phosphatidylinositide-three-kinase / ACT / MAM of Rapamycins (PI-3 K / AKT/ MTOR) pathways is probably required We have been reporting in the latest in the report on a defective ICT of protein kinase (PI-3K / AKT / mTOR).<sup>57-58</sup>

### **Herbal drugs for Arthritis**

Many sufferers look for complementary and opportunity remedy (CAM) alternatives in dealing with this debilitating sickness. Research has indicated that human beings stricken by continual pain, as in RA, and people dissatisfied with contemporary treatment are very probably to are seeking alternative remedies, and an envisioned 60 - ninety% of persons with arthritis use CAM. Among the maximum extensively used treatments are chiropractic and natural therapies.<sup>59</sup> This growing interest in medical opportunities simply demonstrates the need for a more thorough investigation into the protection and effectiveness of CAM. An earlier review<sup>60</sup> conducted in 2000 became restricted in that it excluded herbal preparation tests as opposed to energetic comparators. Consequently, the purpose of this systematic review is to study the current medical evidence for (or in opposition to) the use of herbal medicines for RA based entirely on randomized medical tests (RCTs) of herbal preparations as opposed to all remedies managed. Chopra et al., reported roughly 68% of chronic



rheumatic patients reported sought relieve using alternative medicinal systems and demonstrated herbal formulae's clinical efficacy for the treatment of knee arthritis.<sup>61</sup>

### **Recent available treatment for arthritis**

#### **Methotrexate**

Originally, methotrexate was engineered as an anti-contaminant folate pathway through the inhibition of dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR) when administered at extremely high doses (up to 1 g in unmarried), but it is found that the drug was effective in RA patients at high dose reduction (15-25 mg weekly).<sup>62</sup>Inhibition of purine synthesis and therefore detention in the S step of the cell cycle, leading finally to apoptosis of cells, include the oncological mechanism of action; The medical benefit, including the adverse effects, of so high-dose methotrexate in cancer, maybe reversed with excess calcium or folinic acid.<sup>63</sup>In comparison, administration of follic acid is unaffected by the toxicity of low doses of methotrexate for RA sufferers, and in general, almost always part of the RA medication process minimizes the negative dimension of methotrexate.<sup>64</sup>





### Polyamine and lymphotoxin production suppression of methotrexate.

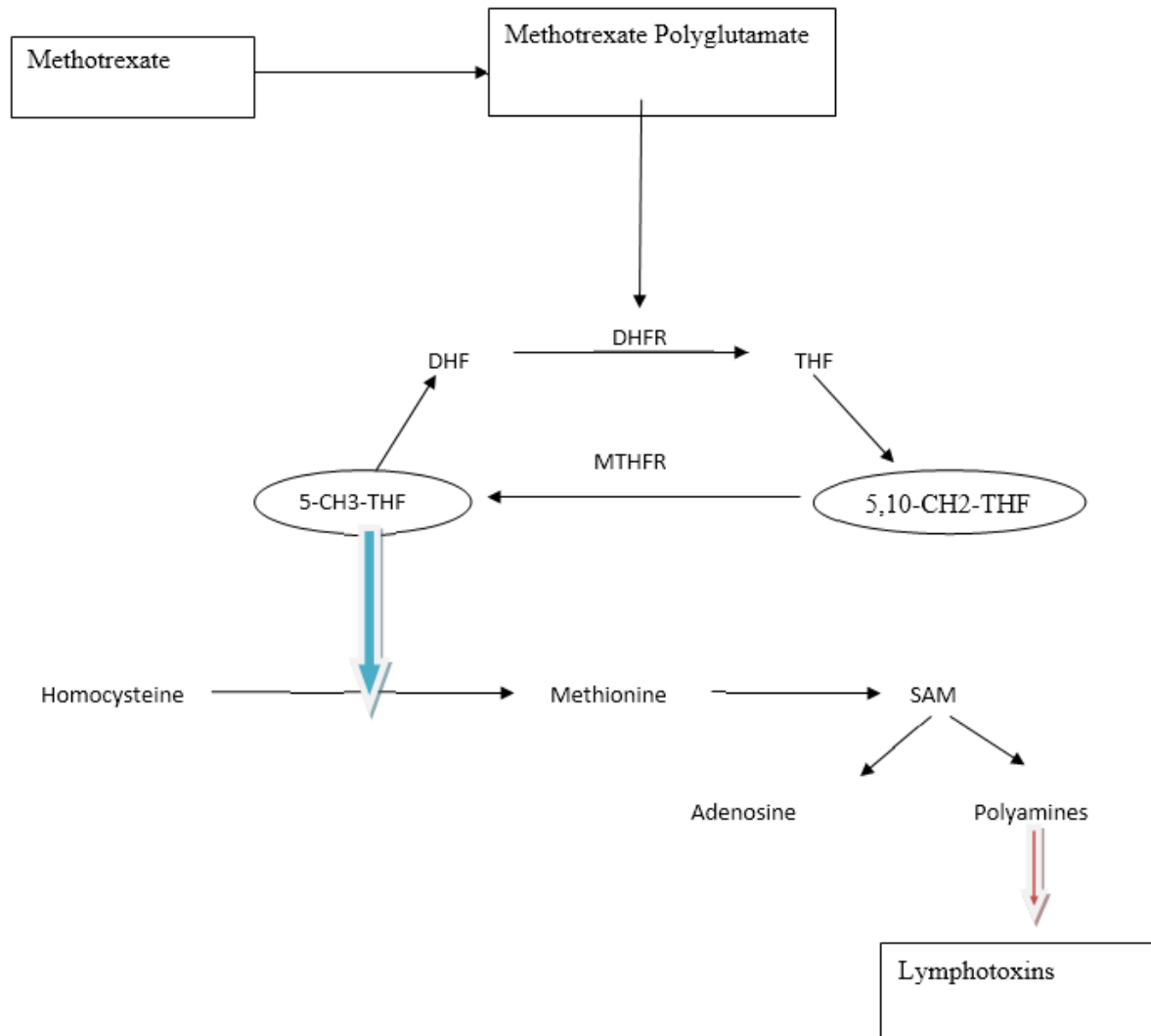


Figure II

### Corticosteroids

Corticosteroids are a more powerful anti-inflammatory drug than NSAIDs, but they have more side effects. For this reason, at low doses, at some point in exacerbations or RA flares, they are best recommended for a short time frame. Symptoms of pain can be used for intraarticular injections of corticosteroids.<sup>65</sup> We point by preventing phospholipid release and increasing eosinophil behavior, thus reducing discomfort. Bone-thinning, weight gain, hypertension, and immunosuppression are among the facet findings. Advise the affected person to take supplementation with calcium and vitamin D can save you from bone thinning. Side outcomes may be reduced as the condition of an affected person improves by gradually

reducing doses. It is important not to stop suddenly injected or oral corticosteroids as this may result in repression of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis (HPA) or RA flares.<sup>66</sup>

### **Hydroxychloroquine**

Hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil) is an antimalarial drug that can be used to treat RA for a long time. This drug decreases the secretion of proinflammatory cytokines originating from monocytes. Common facet consequences consist of GI tract disorders, skin disorders, and valuable scared system. Furthermore, when this medication is administered in high amounts, the eyes may be impaired. Patients in this remedy require ordinary session with an ophthalmologist.<sup>67</sup>

### **Mesenchymal stem cells**

Because of their regenerative and anti-inflammatory homes, mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) have been said to be a candidate for the treatment of RA, each inducing the regeneration of damaged joints and modulating pathogenic immune responses.<sup>68</sup> MSCs are their ability to modulate each innate and adaptive immune response. In fact, MSCs inhibit dendritic cell activation (DCs), proinflammatory M1-like macrophages, natural killer (NK) cells, and B and T cells while inducing anti-inflammatory phenotyping cell technology.<sup>69-73</sup> Based on these broad immunomodulatory capabilities, the therapeutic capacity of MSCs in autoimmune and inflammatory problems has been intensively investigated in experimental mouse fashions.<sup>74-77</sup> Several studies have shown that TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-1 $\beta$ , particularly secreted by M1 macrophages are ample in RA, whereas IL-10, characteristic of M2-like macrophages, is lower in patients with RA than in patients with RA.<sup>78</sup>

### **Pregnancy, Contraception and Lactation**

During, during and after pregnancy, managing rheumatoid arthritis can be difficult. While many girls may have an increase in ailment behavior at some stage of pregnancy, recovery is rare. Poor outcomes in childbirth generally occur with elevated disease incidence and consist of miscarriage, depression and pre-eclampsia.<sup>79</sup>

With the exception of sulfasalazine and hydroxychloroquine, both DMARDs are considered at some stage in childbirth as either harmful or unhealthy protection.<sup>80</sup> Counseling on effective birth control techniques is important to avoid unplanned pregnancy when taking

teratogenic capsules. Planned pregnancy is most popular and allows time to make appropriate remedial changes while managing disease optimization. Some DMARDs (e.g. leflunomide, methotrexate) must be stopped at least three to six months earlier than the theory.<sup>79</sup>

During lactation, due to drug excretion into breast milk, the immunosuppressive results of a few DMARDs may also affect the infant.

## CONCLUSION

RA is a chronic inflammatory disease which causes many other complicated diseases like Cardiovascular disease, Intestitional lung disease, Chronic kidney diseases etc. While initial presentation are related to explain about the diseases causing due to RA and their treatments along with the side effects of the medications which are using. Many of the researchers are now focusing to reduce the adverse effects of the RA disease along with the remission of RA.

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