ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES:

Rheumatoid arthritis is a common systemic inflammatory disease. Extra-articular manifestations are a common occurrence and are part of the spectrum of the disease. The manifestations are diverse and involve almost all the major systems of the body, including cardiovascular, respiratory, neurological and haematological systems.

A wide variety of extra-articular features have been documented in various studies. However, there are considerable variations in the type of extra-articular manifestations reported. The aim of the study is to document the occurrence of extra-articular manifestations by clinical examination, biochemical, pathological and radiological studies in 100 cases of rheumatoid arthritis in CMCH.

PATIENTS AND METHODS:

This is a descriptive study on the extra-articular manifestations of rheumatoid arthritis in 100 cases of rheumatoid arthritis attending outpatient department or admitted in the medical ward of Coimbatore Medical College Hospital, Coimbatore from June 2017 to June 2018. The hospital records of patients who had already been diagnosed as Rheumatoid arthritis were retrospectively evaluated. All these patients were subjected to complete medical history and physical examination, complete blood count, urine analysis and blood biochemistry. Further investigations were done to confirm diagnosis.
RESULTS:

Extra-articular manifestations were noted in 33 patients out of 100 cases of rheumatoid arthritis in the study. Anaemia of chronic disease was the most common manifestation noted. Other manifestations include cardiac abnormalities, pulmonary manifestations, ocular manifestations, dermatological manifestations, peripheral neuropathy and overlap syndromes.

CONCLUSION:

Rheumatoid arthritis is a systemic disease. Hence it may result in a variety of extra-articular manifestations. Patients most likely to develop extra-articular manifestations test positive for serum Rheumatoid Factor. Extra-articular manifestations contribute significantly to the morbidity and mortality in Rheumatoid arthritis.

KEYWORDS: Rheumatoid arthritis, Extra-articular manifestations, Rheumatoid Factor