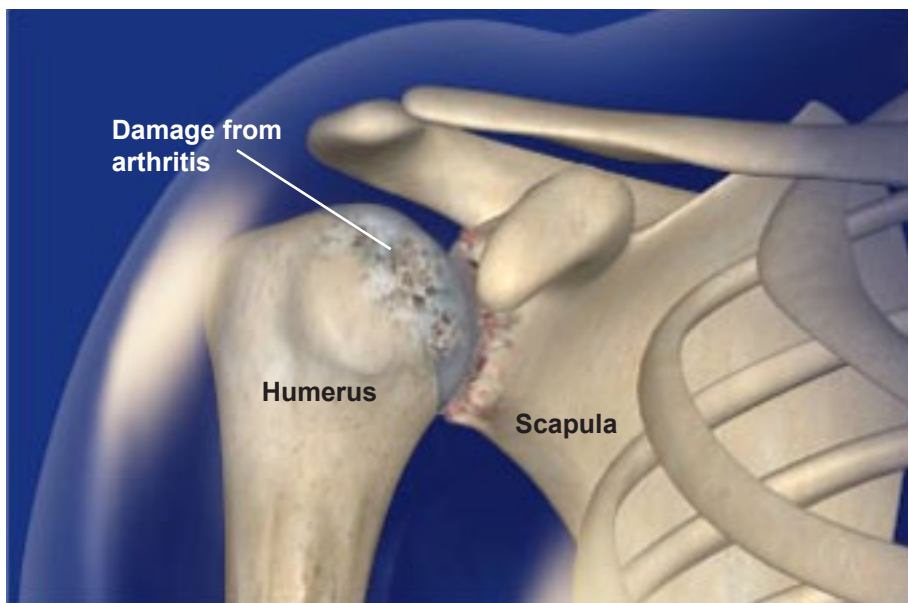


## RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (RA) OF THE SHOULDER



### Overview

Rheumatoid arthritis, a condition of the immune system that can attack joints throughout the body, commonly affects the shoulder. Over time, it can destroy cartilage and bone in the joint.

### Causes

The causes of RA aren't fully understood. It may be caused by inherited genetic factors, but environmental factors may also play a role in triggering the condition.

### Symptoms

Symptoms can include pain, stiffness, a limited range of motion, swelling, and a sensation of grinding or popping in the joint. Symptoms don't always progress steadily - they may worsen, improve, and then worsen again.

### Treatment

Treatment options include anti-inflammatory medications, disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs, and a class of drugs called biological response modifiers (biologics for short). Use of a splint or brace, exercise, and modification of daily activities may also be prescribed. Surgery may be needed.

