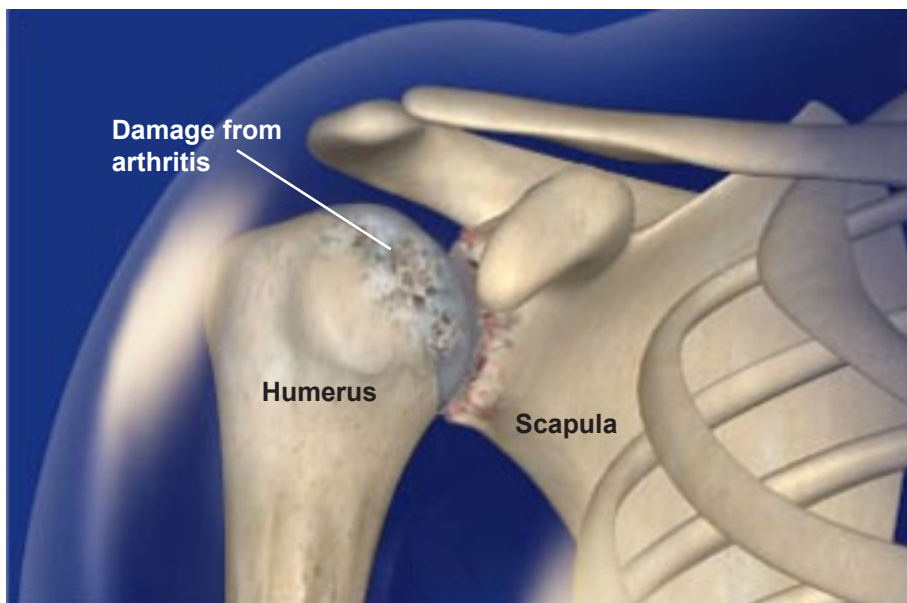


RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (RA) OF THE SHOULDER



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

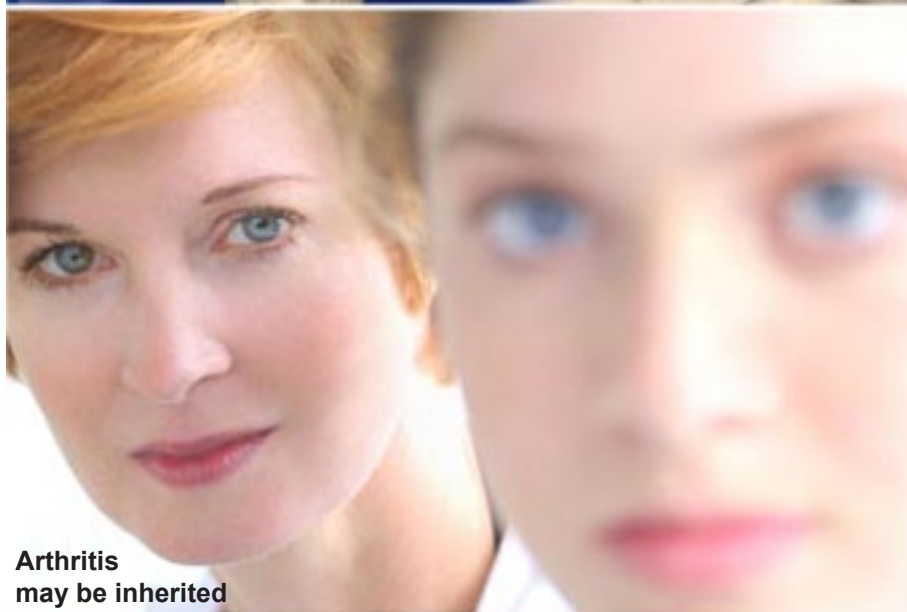
The causes of RA aren't fully understood. It may be caused by inherited genetic factors, but environmental factors may also play a role in triggering the condition.

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.



Arthritis may be inherited



Surgery may be required