

In Rheumatology

RED FLAG ARTHRITIS VS GREEN FLAG ARTHRITIS.

Arthritis can be classified as Red flag(Inflammatory) & green flag (Non Inflammatory) type.

Red flag arthritis, as the name suggest is an emergency & need immediate treatment, classical example of red flag arthritis is Rheumatoid Arthritis & other inflammatory arthritis. While classical example of green flag arthritis is Osteoarthritis.

Here are some basic differences' between red flag arthritis & green flag arthritis

RED FLAG ARTHRITIS (e.g. Rheumatoid Arthritis)	GREEN FLAG ARTHRITIS (e.g. Osteoarthritis)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pain, swelling & stiffness is aggravated after rest (morning stiffness) & improves after use of joints.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pain & stiffness aggravated after use of joints & improves by rest.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Swelling is more common.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Swelling is less common
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most patient are young at the onset of illness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most patients are elderly
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inflammatory marker like ESR, CRP may be high	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inflammatory marker are usually normal
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• X-RAYS of the joints shows erosions after 1-2 years of illness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• X-RAY of joints shows no erosions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• X-RAY of the knee if affected, would show uniform loss of cartilage both lateral & medial side	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The X-RAY of knee if affected, would show loss of cartilage in medial side.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treated by disease modifying drugs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disease modifying drugs have no role.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If untreated can involve extra articular organs like lungs, bone marrow, heart, liver, kidney, lymph nodes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No extra articular organs involvement.