



## The Medical **Bulletin**

# Rheumatology

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Connective tissue disorder is an autoimmune, multisystem, chronic inflammatory disease caused by circulating autoantibodies leads to tissue damage and organ failure.

### **When to suspect connective tissue disorder?**

If patient presented with multisystem involvement including any of the following features suspect connective tissue disorder

**Skin:** Malar rash, photosensitivity rash, scarring alopecia, sclerodactyly, raynauds phenomenon, digital ulcers, purpura, petechiae, recurrent oral ulcers

**Constitutional:** Prolonged fever, weight loss, fatigue

**Eyes:** Scleritis, optic neuritis, dry eyes

**Musculoskeletal:** Arthritis, myalgia, proximal muscle weakness

**ENT:** Parotid enlargement, sicca symptoms (dry mouth), chronic sinusitis

**Pulmonary:** Haemoptysis, serositis (unexplained pleuritis)

**Cardiac:** Young myocardial infarction, serositis (unexplained pericarditis)

**GIT:** Blood in stools, abdominal pain due to mesenteric ischemia

**Renal:** Proteinuria, haematuria, altered renal function test

**Haematological:** Autoimmune hemolytic anemia, leucopenia, thrombocytopenia, deep vein thrombosis

**Obstetrics:** Recurrent pregnancy loss

**CNS:** Neuropathy, mononeuritis multiplex, young stroke, seizures, psychosis

*Dr. Gowri Shankar*