

What is Osteoarthritis?

- Osteoarthritis is also known as degenerative joint disease and is when the body's natural elastic material that covers and protects the ends of bones gradually breaks down leaving bones to come into direct contact with one another.
- There are over 100 different types of arthritis, the two main ones being osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis.
- Osteoarthritis most commonly affects joints in the hands, neck, lower back, knees and hips.



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- What are the types of Osteoarthritis?**
- The most common form is called wear and tear osteoarthritis, which you may have heard of as OA. This refers to the damage you may have done to your joints over time. This can happen as you age and usually occurs around ages 50+.
- Osteoarthritis usually occurs when there is likely a cause for it present. This is very common in professional athletes but anyone can get it.



Who does Osteoarthritis affect?

- It affects 1 in 10 Canadians.
- It affects men and women equally.
- Although anyone can get osteoarthritis, it is more common in people over 50.
- It affects people of different physical conditions and ethnic backgrounds.



What are the causes of Osteoarthritis?

- The exact cause of this disease is unknown.
- However, what is known is that joint damage can be caused by repetitive movement.
- As was mentioned before, osteoarthritis comes about when cartilage erodes.
- There are various factors that contribute to the cause of this disease such as:
 - Age: the older a person is, the higher risk they have for getting osteoarthritis.
 - Injuries: Repeatedly injuring a joint during sports or physical labour can increase the risk of having osteoarthritis.
 - Obesity: Obese individuals are putting excessive weight on the joints which puts pressure on the bones.
 - Heredity: genetics contribute to the development and progression of osteoarthritis. Family history plays a role but researchers are not exactly sure how. They think it may be due to the shape of your bones and the way they fit together or your ability to make/ repair cartilage and these factors are determined by genetics.

Osteoarthritis

Exam Question

What happens to the cartilage of a person who has Osteoarthritis?

Answer

The cartilage around the bones gradually erode when someone has osteoarthritis.

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How do you prevent Osteoarthritis?

- Many cases can be prevented by doing the following:
- Maintaining a healthy weight to avoid excessive pressure on the joints
 - Exercising regularly (but not too vigorously) to avoid stiffness
 - Avoiding joint injuries
 - Treating joint injuries immediately and avoid causing further damage to the joint



Therapy

- Physical therapy: A physical therapist can work with you to create an exercise program.
- Occupational therapy: An occupational therapist can help teach you new ways to do everyday tasks or do your job that helps reduce the pressure you put on your painful joints.
- Joint supports: Joint supports or braces can immobilize a joint to help you keep pressure off of it.



Personal Thoughts/ Extra Information...

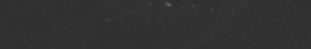
Interesting fact: Experts say that if we live long enough, we will all get primary osteoarthritis to some extent since this type is associated with aging.

Primary osteoarthritis is a noninflammatory arthritis and an idiopathic disease. The disease is characterized by wearing down of the body's own tissues, specifically the synovium, a thin membrane that lines the joints. Because of this, fluid builds up in the joints causing pain and inflammation.

Things Learned: that physical activity is not bad for you, it can actually help you. It's a very common disease. And even children get arthritis.

Surgical Procedures and Injections

- Cortisone shots: relieve pain in your joint. During this procedure your doctor puts a needle into your joint, then places a needle into the space where your joint is located. This medication can worsen joint damage over time so these injections must be used sparingly.
- Lubrication: Intra-articular hyaluronic acid lubricants offer pain relief by cushioning your joint.
- Resurfacing: During a surgery called arthroscopy, the surgeon cuts away bone above or below the knee to realign the leg. This reduces knee pain by shifting your body weight away from the knee.
- Joint replacement (aka arthroplasty): the surgeon removes your damaged joint and replaces it with a prosthesis made with plastic and metal devices called prostheses. The hip and knee joints are the most commonly replaced joints.



What are the symptoms of Osteoarthritis?

- Depending on how severe the disease has become in the individual, the symptoms may range from mild to severe. It is possible to have osteoarthritis and not have any symptoms.
- Pain: Joints aching during and after movement. Pain becomes more intense as the cartilage becomes thinner and the bones begin rubbing together.
 - Stiffness: Getting up in the morning becomes difficult. Stiffness also occurs after periods of inactivity. This usually lasts for 30 minutes or less.
 - Muscle weakness: The muscles get weaker due to a lack of use of the joint because of pain.
 - Deformed Joints: Bone spurs (extra bits of bone) may form around the affected joint. In smaller joints hard bony enlargements, called Heberden's nodes (on the distal interphalangeal joints) and/or Bouchard's nodes (on the proximal interphalangeal joints), may form.
 - Grating or crunching noise when moving.
 - Swelling: The joint may become inflamed with warmth and swelling.
 - Reduced range of motion and loss of use of the joints: as the disease worsens, one might not be able to bend, tilt, or extend the joints.



Heberden's Node: "Finger tip" bump on the end of the finger.
Bouchard's Node: "Swelling" bump on the middle joint of the finger.

How is Osteoarthritis detected and treated?

- There is no cure but sufferers can take medications, begin exercising, and reduce their weight.
- Acetaminophen (Tylenol, etc) can be taken for pain relief from mild to moderate pain.
 - Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (Ibuprofen: Advil, etc) can be taken for pain relief and to reduce inflammation.
 - Narcotics: prescription medication typically contain ingredients similar to codeine (Tylenol- 3) and is taken to provide relief from more severe pain.

USTCOA

Exam Question

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"Comparing Rheumatoid Arthritis and Osteoarthritis-Topic Overview." [comparing-rheumatoid-arthritis-and-osteoarthritis-topic-overview>](#)

"Different Types of Arthritis: Rheumatoid Arthritis, OA, and Psoriatic Arthritis/guide/most-common-arthritis-types>.

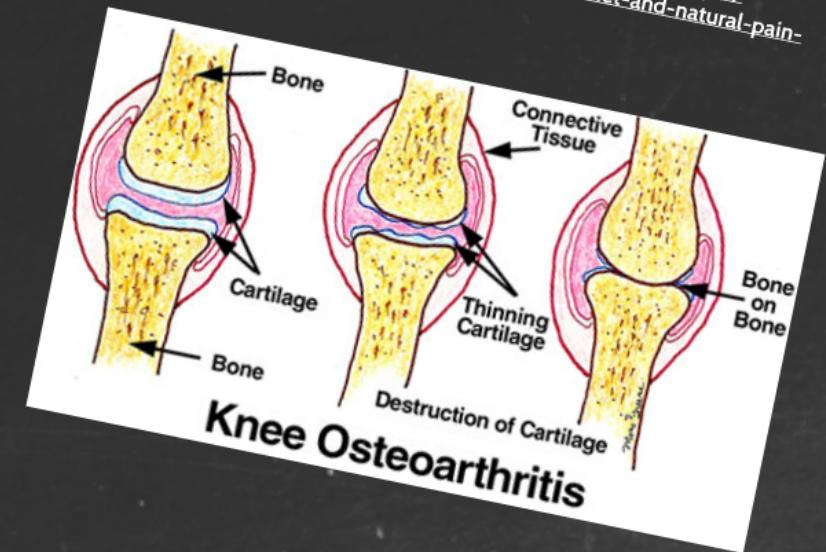
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Video:



YouTube



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