

Osteoarthritis

This is a form of arthritis involving joint cartilage with accompanying changes in the associated bone. It usually involves loss of cartilage and development of osteophytes (bony spurs or projecting knobs) at the bone margins. Osteoarthritis is a painful condition affecting the functioning of the joint. Symptoms include stiffness and pain in the affected joints. The pain may be weather-related and may grow worse when it is cold and damp. There is loss of dexterity and movement in the affected joint. There may be a cracking or grating sound with movement and the joint may show signs of swelling. Causes include the natural process of ageing, injury or overuse and stress on the joints.

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