



FIGURE 380-1 Metacarpophalangeal and proximal interphalangeal joint swelling in rheumatoid arthritis. (Courtesy of the American College of Rheumatology Image Bank.)

deformity”) also may result from damage to the tendons, joint capsule, and other soft tissues in these small joints. Inflammation about the ulnar styloid and tenosynovitis of the extensor carpi ulnaris may cause subluxation of the distal ulna, resulting in a “piano-key movement” of the ulnar styloid. Although metatarsophalangeal (MTP) joint involvement in the feet is an early feature of disease, chronic inflammation of the ankle and midtarsal regions usually comes later and may lead to pes planovalgus (“flat feet”). Large joints, including the knees and shoulders, are often affected in established disease, although these joints may remain asymptomatic for many years after onset.

Atlantoaxial involvement of the cervical spine is clinically noteworthy because of its potential to cause compressive myelopathy and neurologic dysfunction. Neurologic manifestations are rarely a presenting sign or symptom of atlantoaxial disease, but they may evolve over time with progressive instability of C1 on C2. The prevalence of atlantoaxial subluxation has been declining in recent years, and occurs now in less than 10% of patients. Unlike the spondyloarthritides (Chap. 384), RA rarely affects the thoracic and lumbar spine. Radiographic abnormalities of the temporomandibular joint occur commonly in patients with RA, but they are generally not associated with significant symptoms or functional impairment.

Extraarticular manifestations may develop during the clinical course of RA, even prior to the onset of arthritis (Fig. 380-2). Patients most likely to develop extraarticular disease have a history of smoking, have early onset of significant physical disability, and test positive for serum RF. Subcutaneous nodules, secondary Sjögren’s syndrome, pulmonary nodules, and anemia are among the most frequently observed

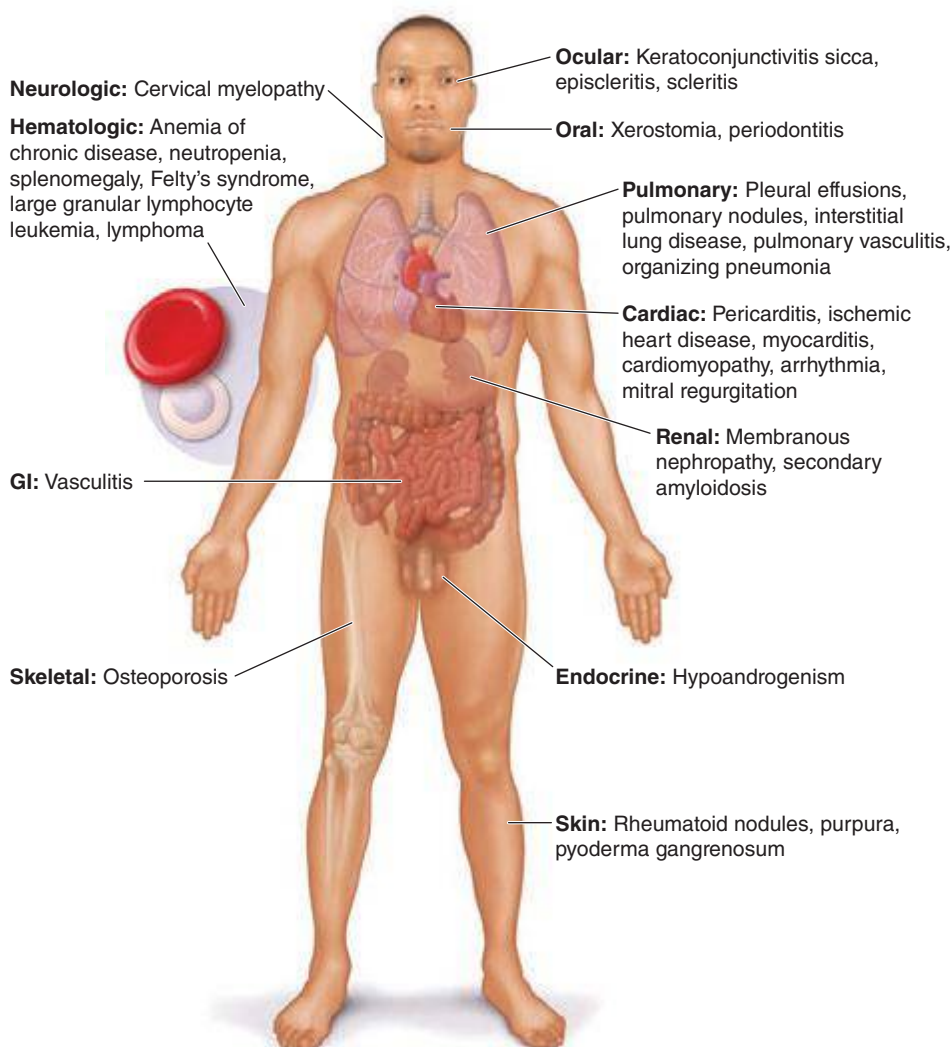


FIGURE 380-2 Extraarticular manifestations of rheumatoid arthritis.