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## IMAGES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE



Figure: Patient with rheumatoid nodulosis having numerous subcutaneous nodules.

### RHEUMATOID NODULOSIS

Rheumatoid nodulosis refers to the presence of numerous rheumatoid nodules, usually subcutaneous, with little active synovitis of the joints.

Rheumatoid nodules are found in about a quarter of cases of rheumatoid arthritis. They show active rheumatoid disease and rheumatoid factor (RF) is almost always present in these patients. These nodules are commonly periosteal but may form in the subcutaneous tissues, tendons and even the viscera. Common sites for periosteal nodules are the olecranon process, proximal ulna, back of the heel, the occiput, and ischial tuberosities.

There may be discrepancy between the severity of articular involvement and progression of nodules. Patients with rheumatoid nodulosis may have little active synovitis. Similarly, patients whose articular inflammation responds well to treatment with disease modifying agents may show a paradoxically rapid increase in the number of nodules.

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