

ABSTRACT

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a systemic inflammatory disease primarily manifesting in the synovial joints and associated structures. In those patients with long-standing erosive disease, foot impairments (pain, stiffness and deformity) are common. Foot assessment is challenging in complex cases and may be aided by newer investigative techniques including instrumented gait analysis. Management requires multidisciplinary team input but care pathways have yet to be established and the evidence base is in its infancy. This case study highlights the assessment, investigation and management of a patient with RA with long-standing erosive disease with complex foot impairments. It focuses on a number of key issues related to the assimilation of clinical, disease and investigative data in the process of clinical decision making, treatment planning and outcome. Particular emphasis is placed on the use of instrumented gait analysis in these processes.

Australasian Journal of Podiatric Medicine
2005; Vol 39, No.4 : 83-89

Correspondence: Dr DE Turner, PhD, Department of Podiatry,
University of Huddersfield, Queensgate, Huddersfield HD1 3DH.
E-mail: D.E.Turner@hud.ac.uk.