

## Criteria for Disease Activity in Osteoarthritis of the Hip and Knee

Overview:

Lequesne proposed criteria for disease activity in osteoarthritis affecting the hip or knee joints. The list has not been validated but reflects suggestions in the literature.

Major Criteria:

(A) radiographic narrowing of the joint space  $\geq 0.5$  mm over a 6 month period reflecting destructive activity

Minor Criteria:

(A) local to affected joint at a given time

(1) high level of pain and disability inconsistent with moderate radiographic osteoarthritis

(2) several NSAIDs ineffective

(3) synovial fluid rich in non-urate calcium crystals

(B) general symptoms at a given time

(4) number of other osteoarthritic joints  $\geq 4$

(5) excess physical activity

(6) excess weight

(C) over a 6-12 month period

(7) relapses with effusions (knee)  $\geq 2$

(8) number of flare ups

(9) number of intra-articular injections  $\geq 2$

where:

- The number of flare ups required to meet the minor criteria is not stated. In the implementation I have used  $\geq 2$ .
- The calcium crystals reflect evidence of chondrocalcinosis.

Lequesne does not specify the number of major and/or minor criteria needed to diagnose active osteoarthritis.

- In the implementation I have used the presence of the major criteria and/or 3 or more minor criteria as indication of active disease.

References:

Lequesne M. Indices of severity and disease activity for osteoarthritis. *Seminars in Arthritis and Rheumatism*. 1991; 20 (supplement 2): 48-54. (Table 6 page 53).