



Adult with suspected RA

Suspected synovitis?

NO

Out of this pathway; consider alternative diagnoses

YES

Are:
- the small joints of hands or feet affected, or
- more than 1 joint affected, or
- 3 months or longer between onset of symptoms and seeking medical advice?

NO

Refer to specialist care

YES

Refer **urgently** to specialist care

Offer to carry out a blood test for rheumatoid factor.
Consider measuring anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide (CCP) antibodies in people who are negative for rheumatoid factor.
X-ray the hands and feet early in the course of the disease in people with persistent synovitis in these joints.

RA diagnosed?

NO

Out of this pathway; consider alternative diagnoses

YES

As soon as possible (unless already measured to inform diagnosis):
- Measure anti-CCP antibodies
- X-ray the hands and feet.
- Measure functional ability (e.g. using HAQ) to inform prognosis.

See management algorithm