

Condition **Psoriatic arthritis**



What is psoriatic arthritis?



Psoriatic arthritis is a condition that causes painful inflammation of the joints and is often linked with the skin condition psoriasis. In this booklet we'll explain what the condition is, how it's treated and where you can find out more about living with psoriatic arthritis.

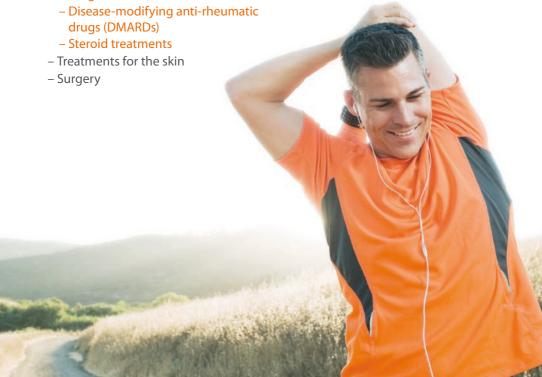
At the back of this booklet you'll find a brief glossary of medical words – we've <u>underlined</u> these when they're first used.

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Psoriatic arthritis usually affects adults but occasionally children can develop the condition. It can be treated with drugs and exercise, and a sensible diet can help to ease symptoms.

About one in three people who have psoriatic arthritis will have pain and stiffness in their neck or back.

At a glance Psoriatic arthritis

What is psoriatic arthritis?

Psoriatic arthritis can cause painful inflammation in any of the body's joints, including those of the neck and back, and is usually associated with a scaly skin condition called psoriasis.

What are the symptoms of psoriatic arthritis?

Symptoms of psoriatic arthritis can include:

- a red, scaly rash (psoriasis)
- swollen, stiff and painful joints
- sausage-like swelling of fingers or toes (dactylitis)
- thickening, discoloration and pitting of the nails
- pain and swelling at the back of the heel
- fatigue.

How is it diagnosed?

Your doctor will examine you and ask if there's a family history of psoriasis. You may also have blood tests to rule out other conditions, and <u>magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans</u>, <u>ultrasound scans</u> and x-rays can sometimes help to confirm the diagnosis.

Psoriatic arthritis is usually associated with a scaly skin condition called psoriasis.

What treatments are there?

You may be given some of the following treatments, depending on your symptoms:

- non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) to relieve symptoms
- disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) that act on the causes of inflammation
- steroid injections
- ointments, tablets or light therapy for skin symptoms
- exercise and <u>physiotherapy</u> to keep the joints mobile
- surgery to repair damaged <u>tendons</u> or replace badly damaged joints, but this is rarely needed.

How can I help myself?

Keeping to a healthy weight reduces strain on your joints. Staying active will help, but you'll need to find the right balance between rest and exercise.

What is psoriatic arthritis?

Psoriatic arthritis causes inflammation in and around the joints. It usually affects people who already have psoriasis, a skin condition that causes a red, scaly rash, especially on the elbows, knees, back, buttocks and scalp. However, some people develop the arthritic symptoms before the psoriasis, while others will never develop the skin condition.

Psoriasis can affect people of any age, both male and female, but psoriatic arthritis usually only affects adults.

People with psoriasis may also have other types of arthritis, such as osteoarthritis

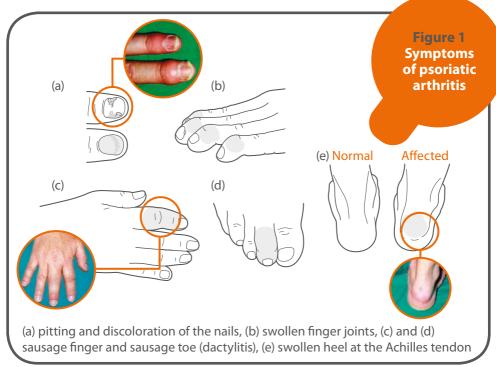
or <u>rheumatoid arthritis</u>, but these aren't linked to the psoriasis.

See Arthritis Research UK booklets
Osteoarthritis; Rheumatoid arthritis.

What are the symptoms of psoriatic arthritis?

Figure 1 shows some of the common symptoms of psoriatic arthritis.
Symptoms can include:

• pain and stiffness in and around the joints



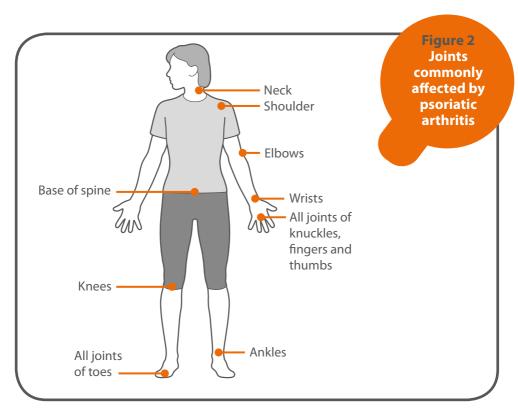
Photography used with kind permission of Elsevier. © Elsevier 2011. Taken from *Practical Rheumatology*, third edition and *Rheumatology*, fifth edition. Edited by Marc C Hochberg, Alan J Silman, Josef S Smolen, Michael E Weinblatt and Michael H Weisman.

Psoriatic arthritis

- swollen fingers or toes (dactylitis), caused by inflammation in both joints and tendons
- buttock pain, a stiff back or a stiff neck, which is caused by inflammation in the spine (spondylitis)
- pain and swelling in the heels, caused by inflammation where the <u>Achilles</u> tendon attaches to the bone
- pain in other areas where tendons attach to bone (enthesitis), such as the knee, hip and chest

About 1 in 50 people have psoriasis, and of these about 1 in 5 will develop psoriatic arthritis.

- pitting, discoloration and thickening of the nails
- fatigue, which can be caused by the activity of the disease or the emotional effects that come with living with a long-term condition.



There are 78 major joints in the body and psoriatic arthritis can affect any one of these, although some joints are more likely to be affected than others (see Figure 2). About one in three people who have psoriatic arthritis will have pain and stiffness in their neck or back.

Does psoriatic arthritis affect other parts of the body?

Psoriatic arthritis doesn't usually affect major organs such as the kidneys, liver or lungs. However, you may be more likely to develop a painful red eye. This may be caused by inflammation of the layer of tissue that covers the front of the eye and the inside of the eyelid (conjunctivitis) or around the pupil (iritis/uveitis).

People with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis may also have a slightly greater risk than other people of developing heart disease, so it's important to tackle anything that could add to this risk, such as smoking, high alcohol intake, being overweight or blood pressure problems.

What causes psoriatic arthritis?

The arthritis and the skin condition are both caused by inflammation. The processes of inflammation are very similar in the skin and the joints. We don't yet know exactly what triggers the inflammation in psoriatic arthritis, although a particular combination of genes makes some people more likely than others to develop psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis.

Research suggests that something – perhaps an infection – acts as a trigger in people who are already at risk of this type of arthritis because of the genes they've inherited from their parents. No specific infection has yet been found, and it may be that a variety of infections can trigger the disease, for example bacteria that live in patches of psoriasis.

Sometimes the arthritis can follow an accident or injury, particularly if it affects a single joint. People who are overweight are more at risk of developing both psoriasis and the arthritis linked with this.

What is the outlook?

Psoriatic arthritis can vary a great deal between different people so it's not possible to offer specific advice on what you should expect. About a third of people with psoriatic arthritis will have a mild form of the disease that remains very stable over time. Others will have more severe symptoms that need long-term treatment. How bad the arthritis is isn't related to how bad the skin condition is – some people with very mild psoriasis can have severe arthritis.

Psoriatic arthritis will usually have some effect on function and quality of life, but treatment will help to reduce the effects it has.



How is psoriatic arthritis diagnosed?

It's important that psoriatic arthritis is diagnosed early so treatment can be started as soon as possible. There's no specific test for psoriatic arthritis, but the diagnosis is based on your symptoms and a physical examination. Your doctor will check for psoriasis and may ask if there's a history of psoriasis in your family.

If several joints are affected, your doctor will consider features such as the pattern of arthritis – that is, which joints are affected. It can be difficult to tell the difference between psoriatic arthritis and rheumatoid arthritis, so your doctor may want you to take a blood test for <u>rheumatoid factor</u> to help rule out rheumatoid arthritis. It also has similar symptoms to gout, so x-rays of your back, hands and feet can also be helpful, as psoriatic arthritis can

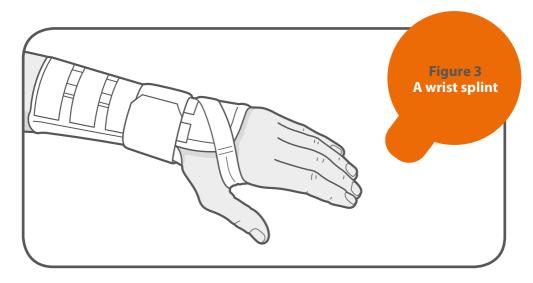
affect the bones and joints in these areas in a different way to other conditions. Other types of imaging, such as MRI and ultrasound scans, may help to confirm the diagnosis.

What treatments are there for psoriatic arthritis?

A team of healthcare professionals are likely to be involved in your treatment. Your doctor (usually a <u>rheumatologist</u>) will be responsible for your care, although a nurse may also be involved in monitoring your condition and treatments.

You may also see:

- a physiotherapist, who can advise on exercises to help maintain your mobility
- an <u>occupational therapist</u>, who can advise on protecting your joints from further damage, for example, by using



Psoriatic arthritis

splints (see Figure 3) or altering the way you perform tasks to reduce the strain on your joints

 a <u>podiatrist</u>, who can assess your footcare needs and offer advice on special footwear.

1 See Arthritis Research UK booklets

Feet, footwear and arthritis; Meet the rheumatology team; Occupational therapy and arthritis; Physiotherapy and arthritis The processes of inflammation are similar in the skin and joints, so treatments aimed at one area of the condition often help the other as well.

Drugs

For the arthritis

- non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), for example ibuprofen, indometacin, naproxen
- steroid injections
- disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs), for example methotrexate, sulfasalazine, leflunomide
- biological therapies, for example adalimumab, infliximab, etanercept

For the psoriasis

- ointments
- retinoid tablets
- ultraviolet light therapy
- DMARDs and biological therapies used for arthritis sometimes also help the psoriasis

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)

NSAIDs act by blocking the inflammation that occurs in the lining of your joints. They can be very effective in controlling pain and stiffness. Usually you'll find your symptoms improve within hours of taking these drugs but the effect will only last for a few hours, so the tablets have to be taken regularly.



Some people find that NSAIDs work well at first but become less effective after a few weeks. In this situation, it sometimes helps to try a different NSAID. There are about 20 available, including ibuprofen, diclofenac, indometacin and naproxen.

Like all drugs, NSAIDs can sometimes have side-effects, but your doctor will take precautions to reduce the risk of these, for example, by prescribing the lowest effective dose for the shortest possible period of time.

NSAIDs can cause digestive problems (stomach upsets, indigestion or damage to the lining of the stomach) so in most cases NSAIDs will be prescribed along with a drug called a <u>proton pump inhibitor (PPI)</u>, which will help to protect the stomach.

NSAIDs also carry an increased risk of heart attack or stroke. Although the increased risk is small, your doctor will be cautious about prescribing NSAIDs if there are other factors that may increase your overall risk, for example, smoking, circulation problems, high blood pressure, high cholesterol or diabetes.

See Arthritis Research UK drug leaflet Non-steroidal antiinflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).

Disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs)

DMARDs help by tackling the causes of inflammation. They change the way the

disease progresses and hopefully will stop your arthritis from getting worse. It may be several weeks before DMARDs start to have an effect on your joints, so you should keep taking them even if they don't seem to be working. Sometimes these drugs are given by injection.

The decision to use DMARDs will depend on a number of factors, including how active the arthritis and psoriasis are and the likelihood of further joint damage.

Examples of DMARDs include:

- methotrexate
- sulfasalazine
- leflunomide.

Biological therapies are a newer group of drugs that may be used if other DMARDs aren't working well enough. These are given either by injection or through a drip into a vein (an intravenous infusion). Biological therapies used for treating psoriatic arthritis include:

- adalimumab
- etanercept
- golimumab
- infliximab
- ustekinumab.

When taking almost all DMARDs you'll need to have regular blood tests at your GP practice and in some cases a urine test. The tests allow your doctor to monitor the effects of the drug on your condition but also to check for possible side-effects, including problems with the liver, kidneys or blood count.

Psoriatic arthritis

You can take NSAIDs along with DMARDs. Some people will need to take more than one DMARD at a time.

See Arthritis Research UK drug leaflets Adalimumab; Etanercept; Golimumab; Infliximab; Leflunomide; Methotrexate; Sufalsalazine.

Steroid treatments

Steroid tablets aren't generally used for psoriatic arthritis. However, steroid injections are often recommended for joints that are particularly troublesome or when <u>ligaments</u> and tendons become inflamed

See Arthritis Research UK drug leaflet Local steroid injections.

Treatments for the skin

Skin treatment is usually with ointments. There are five main types:

- tar-based ointments
- ointments made from a medicine called dithranol which helps to control processes that affect the production of skin cells (it's very important not to let these come into contact with normal skin as they may 'burn' the skin)
- steroid-based creams and lotions
- vitamin D-like ointments such as calcipotriol and tacalcitol
- vitamin A-like (retinoid) gels such as tazarotene.



Keeping to a healthy weight will reduce the strain on your joints.

If the creams and ointments don't help the psoriasis your doctor may suggest:

- light therapy (also called phototherapy)

 this involves being exposed to short

 spells of high-intensity ultraviolet light in hospital
- retinoid tablets.

Many of the DMARDs used for psoriatic arthritis will also help the skin condition. Similarly, some of the treatments for the skin may help the arthritis.

Treatments for nail psoriasis are usually less effective than the skin treatments. Many people use nail varnish to make the marks less noticeable.

Surgery

People with psoriatic arthritis don't often need surgery. Very occasionally a damaged tendon may need surgical repair. And sometimes, after many years of disease, a joint that has been damaged by inflammation is best treated with joint replacement surgery.

If the psoriasis is bad in the skin around the affected joint, your surgeon may recommend a course of antibiotic tablets to help prevent infection. Sometimes psoriasis can appear along the scar left by the operation, but this can be treated in the usual way.

See Arthritis Research UK bookletsHip replacement surgery; Knee
replacement surgery; Shoulder and
elbow joint replacement.

Self-help and daily living

There are some things you can do in your daily life that may help to ease your symptoms.

Exercise

Inflammation can lead to muscle weakness and stiffness in the joints. Exercise is important to prevent this and to keep your joints working properly. However, inflammation can also make you feel unusually tired so you may find you need to take more rests than usual.

Your doctor or a physiotherapist will be able to advise on suitable forms of exercise depending on which joints are most affected. However, you'll need to find out for yourself the right balance between rest and exercise.

• See Arthritis Research UK booklets
Fatigue and arthritis; Keep moving;
Looking after your joints when you
have arthritis.



Diet and nutrition

No specific diets have been found to be very effective for psoriatic arthritis, although some people find that fish body oils (not fish liver oils) from saltwater fish reduce the need for antiinflammatory drugs.

Being overweight will put extra strain on your joints, particularly in your legs and back. It's also important to control your weight because of the increased risk of heart disease. We recommend a healthy, balanced diet with plenty of fresh vegetables and fruit.

See Arthritis Research UK booklet

Diet and arthritis.

Complementary medicine

There's no scientific evidence that suggests any form of complementary medicine helps to ease the symptoms of psoriatic arthritis. Generally speaking, complementary and alternative therapies are relatively well tolerated, but you should always discuss with your doctor if you want to try them

There are some risks associated with specific therapies, but in many cases the risks associated with them are more to do with the therapist than the therapy. This is why it's important to go to a legally registered therapist, or one who has a set ethical code and is fully insured.

If you decide to try therapies or supplements, you should be critical of what they're doing for you, and base your decision to continue on whether you notice any improvement.

See Arthritis Research UK bookletComplementary and alternative
medicine for arthritis.

Work and benefits

People with arthritis are likely to have some difficulties with work, but help is available. Work assessment and, if necessary, retraining can be arranged by a Disability Employment Advisor (DEA). You can contact an advisor through your local Jobcentre Plus office.



Psoriatic arthritis

The Employment Medical Advisory Service can also help by providing equipment to make it easier for you to do your job.

Benefits are available if you're unable to work or have mobility problems. A health or social worker or your local Citizens Advice Bureau will be able to advise you on which benefits you may be able to claim.

See Arthritis Research UK booklets

Everyday living and arthritis; Work and arthritis

Sex and pregnancy

Sex can sometimes be painful, particularly for a woman whose hips are affected. Experimenting with different positions will usually provide a solution.

Psoriatic arthritis won't affect your chances of having children. The arthritis may improve during the pregnancy, although your symptoms may return after the baby is born.

Some of the drug treatments given for psoriatic arthritis should be avoided when trying to start a family. For instance, sulfasalazine can cause a low sperm count (this isn't permanent) and you shouldn't try for a baby if you or your partner are on methotrexate or have been using it in recent months. If you're thinking about starting a family, you should discuss your drug treatment with your doctor well in advance so that your medications can be changed if needed.

Both psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis do tend to run in families to some extent.

If there's a history of psoriasis or psoriatic arthritis in your family, your children may be more likely than most to get psoriatic arthritis, but the risk of passing it on directly is still low.



See Arthritis Research UK booklets

Pregnancy and arthritis; Sex and arthritis

Living with psoriatic arthritis

Any long-term condition can affect your moods and confidence, and it can have an impact on your work, social life and relationships. Talk things over with a friend, relative or your doctor if you do find your condition is getting you down. You can also contact support groups if you want to meet other people with psoriatic arthritis.

If you smoke, it's important to try to stop – as well as stopping smoking being good for your health in general, smoking can make several forms of psoriasis worse. Speak to your doctor for advice on stopping smoking, or visit the NHS Smokefree website.

Research and new developments

Scientists are working to find the exact causes of psoriatic arthritis. It's now possible to scan human genetic material to look for genes that increase the likelihood of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. This is likely to bring completely new developments in the next few years. In addition, new MRI techniques are now telling us more about the sites of inflammation in the disease, which will lead to better targeted therapies.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) published new quality standards in 2013 to help improve the care of people across England with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. The standards are mainly aimed at GPs and state that people with psoriasis should be offered an appointment every year to check for signs of psoriatic arthritis and every five years to check their cardiovascular health. This should help in diagnosing psoriatic arthritis early and making sure that the right treatment is given as soon as possible.

Glossary

Achilles tendon – the tendon at the back of the heel that attaches the calf muscles to the heel bone.

Disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) – drugs used in rheumatoid arthritis and some other rheumatic diseases to suppress the disease and reduce inflammation. Unlike painkillers and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), DMARDs treat the disease itself rather than just reducing the pain and stiffness caused by the disease. Examples of DMARDs are methotrexate, sulfasalazine, gold, infliximab, etanercept and adalimumab.

Enthesitis – inflammation of the sites (entheses) where tendons or ligaments attach to bone.

Fatigue – a feeling of weariness that's more extreme than simple tiredness. It can affect you physically, but it can also affect your concentration and motivation, and often comes on for no apparent reason and without warning.

Inflammation – a normal reaction to injury or infection of living tissues. The flow of blood increases, resulting in heat and redness in the affected tissues, and fluid and cells leak into the tissue, causing swelling.

Iritis – inflammation of the coloured part of the eye (the iris), causing pain and redness. It can be serious if left untreated.

Psoriatic arthritis

Ligaments – tough, fibrous bands anchoring the bones on either side of a joint and holding the joint together. In the spine, they're attached to the vertebrae and restrict spinal movements, therefore giving stability to the back.

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan – a type of scan that uses high-frequency radio waves in a strong magnetic field to build up pictures of the inside of the body. It works by detecting water molecules in the body's tissue that give out a characteristic signal in the magnetic field. An MRI scan can show up soft-tissue structures as well as bones

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) – a large family of drugs prescribed for different kinds of arthritis that reduce inflammation and control pain, swelling and stiffness. Common examples include ibuprofen, naproxen and diclofenac.

Occupational therapist – a trained specialist who uses a range of strategies and specialist equipment to help people to reach their goals and maintain their independence by giving practical advice on equipment, adaptations or by changing the way you do things (such as learning to dress using one-handed methods following hand surgery).

Osteoarthritis – the most common form of arthritis (mainly affecting the joints in the fingers, knees, hips), causing cartilage thinning and bony overgrowths (osteophytes) and resulting in pain, swelling and stiffness.

Physiotherapy – a therapy given by a trained specialist that helps to keep your joints and muscles moving, helps ease pain and keeps you mobile.

Podiatrist – a trained foot specialist. The terms podiatrist and chiropodist mean the same thing, although podiatrist tends to be preferred by the profession. NHS podiatrists are registered with the Health Professions Council (HPC), having followed a three-year university-based training programme. The podiatrist or chiropodist can deal with many of the foot problems caused by arthritis.

Proton pump inhibitor (PPI) – a drug that acts on an enzyme in the cells of the stomach to reduce the secretion of gastric acid. They're often prescribed along with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) to reduce side-effects from the NSAIDs.

Psoriasis – a common skin condition which can be characterised by patches of thickened, red and inflamed skin often with silvery scales. Other types of psoriasis may cause angry red skin in the scalp and armpit or between the buttocks. Psoriasis can also affect the nails, causing separation of the nail and pitting. New skin cells are produced more quickly than normal, leading to a build-up of excess skin cells. The condition is sometimes associated with psoriatic arthritis.

Rheumatoid arthritis – an inflammatory disease affecting the joints, particularly the lining of the joint. It most commonly starts in the smaller joints in a symmetrical pattern – that is, for example, in both hands or both wrists at once.

Rheumatoid factor – a blood protein produced by a reaction in the immune system. About 80% of people with rheumatoid arthritis test positive for this protein. However, the presence of rheumatoid factor can't definitely confirm the diagnosis.

Rheumatologist – a hospital specialist with an interest in autoimmune diseases and diseases of joints, bones and muscles.

Tendon – a strong, fibrous band or cord that anchors muscle to bone.

Ultrasound scan – a type of scan that uses high-frequency sound waves to examine and build up pictures of the inside of the body.

Uveitis – inflammation of the eye, which can cause permanent damage and even blindness if it's not treated early.

Where can I find out more?

If you've found this information useful you might be interested in these other titles from our range:

Conditions

- Osteoarthritis
- Rheumatoid arthritis

Therapies

- Meet the rheumatology team
- Occupational therapy and arthritis
- Physiotherapy and arthritis

Surgeries

- Hip replacement surgery
- Knee replacement surgery
- Shoulder and elbow joint replacement

Self-help and daily living

- Complementary and alternative medicine for arthritis
- Diet and arthritis
- · Everyday living and arthritis
- Fatigue and arthritis
- Feet, footwear and arthritis
- Keep moving
- Looking after your joints when you have arthritis
- Pregnancy and arthritis
- Sex and arthritis
- Work and arthritis

Drug leaflets

- Adalimumab
- Etanercept
- Infliximab
- Leflunomide
- Methotrexate
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)
- Sulfasalazine

Psoriatic arthritis

You can download all of our booklets and leaflets from our website or order them by contacting:

Arthritis Research UK

Copeman House St Mary's Court St Mary's Gate, Chesterfield Derbyshire S41 7TD Phone: 0300 790 0400 www.arthritisresearchuk.org

Related organisations

The following organisations may be able to provide additional advice and information:

Arthritis Care

Floor 4, Linen Court 10 East Road London N1 6AD Phone: 0207 380 6500 Helpline: 0808 800 4050

Email: info@arthritiscare.org.uk www.arthritiscare.org.uk

Citizens Advice Bureau

To find your local office, see the telephone directory or Yellow Pages under `Citizens Advice Bureau' or contact Citizens Advice: Phone (for England): 0844 411 1444 Phone (for Wales): 0844 477 2020 www.citizensadvice.org.uk www.adviceguide.org.uk advice4me.org.uk (for under 25s)

Gov.UK

www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/disability For general information about benefits and practical support to help you with your work life.

NHS Smokefree

Phone: 0800 022 4332 http://smokefree.nhs.uk

Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis Alliance (PAPAA)

PO Box 111 St Albans Hertfordshire AL2 3JQ Phone: 01923 672837 www.papaa.org.uk

Psoriasis Scotland Arthritis Link Volunteers (PSALV)

54 Bellevue Road Edinburgh EH7 4DE Phone: 0131 556 4117

Email: janice.johnson5@btinternet.com www.psoriasisscotland.org.uk

The Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) recently published new guidelines for the diagnosis and management of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis in adults. You can view these guidelines at www.sign.ac.uk/guidelines/ fulltext/121/index.html

Links to sites and resources provided by third parties are provided for your general information only. We have no control over the contents of those sites or resources and we give no warranty about their accuracy or suitability. You should always consult with your GP or other medical professional.



We're here to help

Arthritis Research UK is the charity leading the fight against arthritis.

We're the UK's fourth largest medical research charity and fund scientific and medical research into all types of arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions.

We're working to take the pain away for sufferers with all forms of arthritis and helping people to remain active. We'll do this by funding high-quality research, providing information and campaigning.

Everything we do is underpinned by research.

We publish over 60 information booklets which help people affected by arthritis to understand more about the condition, its treatment, therapies and how to help themselves.

We also produce a range of separate leaflets on many of the drugs used for arthritis and related conditions. We recommend that you read the relevant leaflet for more detailed information about your medication.

Please also let us know if you'd like to receive our quarterly magazine, *Arthritis Today*, which keeps you up to date with current research and education news, highlighting key projects that we're funding and giving insight into the latest treatment and self-help available.

We often feature case studies and have regular columns for questions and answers, as well as readers' hints and tips for managing arthritis.

Tell us what you think

Please send your views to: feedback@arthritisresearchuk.org or write to us at: Arthritis Research UK, Copeman House, St Mary's Court, St Mary's Gate,

Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41 7TD

A team of people contributed to this booklet. The original text was written by Dr Philip Helliwell, who has expertise in the subject. It was assessed at draft stage by consultant rheumatologist Prof. Bhaskar Dasgupta and rheumatology nurse specialist Emma Ramsay. An **Arthritis Research UK** editor revised the text to make it easy to read, and a non-medical panel, including interested societies, checked it for understanding. An **Arthritis Research UK** medical advisor, Dr Ben Thompson, is responsible for the overall content.



Get involved

You can help to take the pain away from millions of people in the UK by:

- volunteering
- supporting our campaigns
- taking part in a fundraising event
- making a donation
- asking your company to support us
- buying products from our online and high-street shops.

To get more actively involved, please call us on 0300 790 0400, email us at enquiries@arthritisresearchuk.org or go to

www.arthritisresearchuk.org



Copeman House St Mary's Court St Mary's Gate, Chesterfield Derbyshire S41 7TD

Tel **0300 790 0400**

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www.arthritisresearchuk.org

