

Folk Medicine in the Therapeutics of Rheumatoid Arthritis

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Rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic systemic inflammatory disease that affects the joints, been the most common chronic arthropathy. Its affects is approximately 1% of the world population, and the prevalence is three times more in men than in woman [1-4]. However, the incidence of rheumatoid arthritis increases with ageing, and at this age differences between genders became equal. Its inception occurs most commonly between 35 and 50 years-old, and it is known that their incidence is related to genetic and/or environmental factors [5].

The symptoms of joint inflammation are maximum at the beginning of the clinical and erosions occur predominantly in the first two years of the disease [6].

This disease primarily affects the synovial membrane with destruction of articular cartilage and subchondral bone invasion, with characteristics of a chronic inflammatory process. Among the numerous factors involved in the pathogenesis, it is believed that an antigenic stimulus start the process in genetically predisposed individuals and favorable environmental conditions [6]. Its pathogenesis is complex, involving the participation of an immune-inflammatory response with the release of inflammatory mediators, including cytokines (TNF- α , IL-1, IL-2 and IL-6) and eicosanoids that contribute to the perpetuation and progression of synovitis joint [7].

The therapeutics actually used, has helped to cure several aspects of rheumatoid arthritis, however, side effects of allopathic medicine, increasing trend of antibiotic resistance and chemicals and biopesticides causing dietary risk have made the situation more critical than ever

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