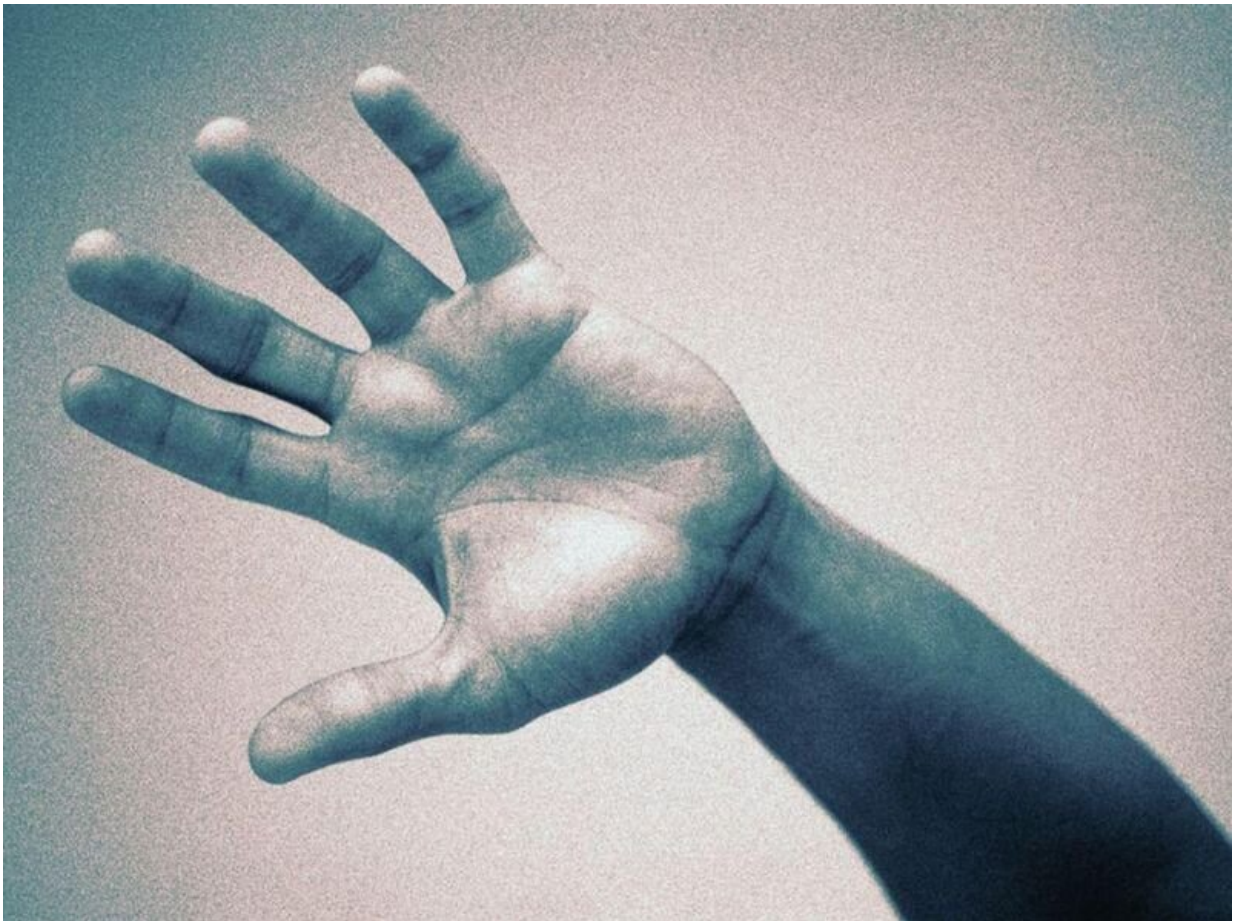


Inflammation at IP thumb joint common in psoriatic arthritis

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(HealthDay)—Patients with psoriatic arthritis (PsA) more often have

inflammation at the interphalangeal (IP) joint of the thumb compared to those with undifferentiated inflammatory arthritis (UIA), according to a study published online June 28 in the *International Journal of Rheumatic Diseases*.

Ashish J. Mathew, M.B.B.S., D.M., from the Christian Medical College in Vellore, India, and colleagues compared inflammation at the IP joint of the thumb in 42 [patients](#) with PsA, 28 with [rheumatoid arthritis](#) (RA), 29 with UIA, and 62 psoriasis patients without clinical arthritis who had undergone [magnetic resonance](#) imaging (MRI) of the hands. Three independent readers assessed the presence or absence of MRI inflammatory lesions including synovitis, tenosynovitis, and bone marrow edema.

The researchers found that 33.3 percent of the PsA patients had global MRI inflammation at the IP joint of the thumb compared with 14.3 and 10.3 percent in RA and UIA, respectively. Of the psoriasis patients without clinical arthritis, 8.1 percent had subclinical MRI inflammation. The risk ratios of global MRI inflammation at the IP joint of the thumb were 2.3 (95 percent confidence interval, 0.86 to 6.36) and 3.2 (95 percent confidence interval, 1.02 to 10.21) for PsA patients compared with RA and UIA patients, respectively.

"Our present study has, therefore, validated a bedside clinical observation that can be used for early diagnosis of PsA and for differential diagnosis," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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