

Gout

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A 90 year old woman suffers from gout that involves the palms of her hands. She receives chronic therapy with allopurinol 100 mg/day with the addition of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents and colchicine during flare-ups. Her condition is characterized by alternating periods of remission and exacerbation. Over the course of the past 2 years there has been a gradual worsening of her condition with the proliferation of tophi on her fingers [Figure]. Her uric acid level is 11.8 mg/dl. Treatment with colchicine was resumed.

Gout is the precipitation of monosodium urate crystals into tissue, usually in and around joints. Symptoms include

pain, tenderness, warmth, redness and swelling [1]. Tophi develop most often in patients with chronic gout. They can occur in patients who have never had arthritis.

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