

Respiratory Medicine

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Editors

Lung Disease in Rheumatoid Arthritis

 Humana Press



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ISSN 2197-7372

ISSN 2197-7380 (electronic)

Respiratory Medicine

ISBN 978-3-319-68887-9

ISBN 978-3-319-68888-6 (eBook)

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-68888-6>

Library of Congress Control Number: 2017964625

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Printed on acid-free paper

This Humana Press imprint is published by Springer Nature

The registered company is Springer International Publishing AG

The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

Preface

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) affects ~1% of the adult population, and although characterized by symmetric polyarthritis, a variety of extra-articular manifestations are also associated with the disease. In particular, there is a growing appreciation that lung disease is common in patients with RA, and every compartment of the lungs is potentially at risk. Despite the remarkable advances over the past decades in managing the articular aspects of the disease, RA-associated lung disease continues to be associated with significant morbidity and is a leading cause of mortality in patients with RA. Although some risk factors have been identified (such as smoking), we still have major gaps in our understanding of why some RA patients are more likely to develop lung disease, and there is much to learn about the natural history and treatment of lung involvement in these patients.

The clinical care and research of lung disease in RA is of particular interest to practitioners in primary care, rheumatology, pulmonary medicine, radiology, and pathology. However, this topic is often approached from one specialty alone—rather than in an interdisciplinary, synergistic model. This textbook on *Lung Disease in Rheumatoid Arthritis* aims to serve as a unique resource for clinicians. It is a comprehensive, interdisciplinary compilation that encompasses the spectrum of lung disease encountered in patients with RA. This textbook aims to provide a single, practical, and clinically oriented resource for this complex disease state with hopes of optimizing approaches to the evaluation and management of RA-associated lung disease. This compilation also goes beyond the bedside to provide insights into disease etiology and pathogenesis, highlight areas of uncertainty, and lay the groundwork for future research and discovery.

This textbook begins with a thorough overview of the clinical aspects of RA followed by state-of-the-art reviews of the current understanding of pathophysiology and etiopathogenesis of the disease. Within these sections, the hypothesis that the lungs may be central to the development of RA is explored. The next two chapters focus on what is known about the epidemiology of lung disease in RA, followed by a review of risk factors and biomarkers associated with this complex disease state. A practical overview of the radiologist's approach to lung disease in RA patients is followed by a comprehensive review of the pulmonary histopathologic patterns

identified in these cohorts. The subsequent chapters provide practical approaches to the comprehensive evaluation and management of interstitial lung disease (ILD) in RA, followed by a final chapter that reviews the non-ILD pulmonary manifestations associated with RA.

We recognize the outstanding combined efforts of the authors of this textbook on “*Lung Disease in Rheumatoid Arthritis*” and hope this volume serves to further your understanding of the complex intersection of lung disease in RA and proves to be a useful resource that enhances your care and research of these patients.

Aurora, CO
Aurora, CO

Joyce S. Lee
Aryeh Fischer

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