

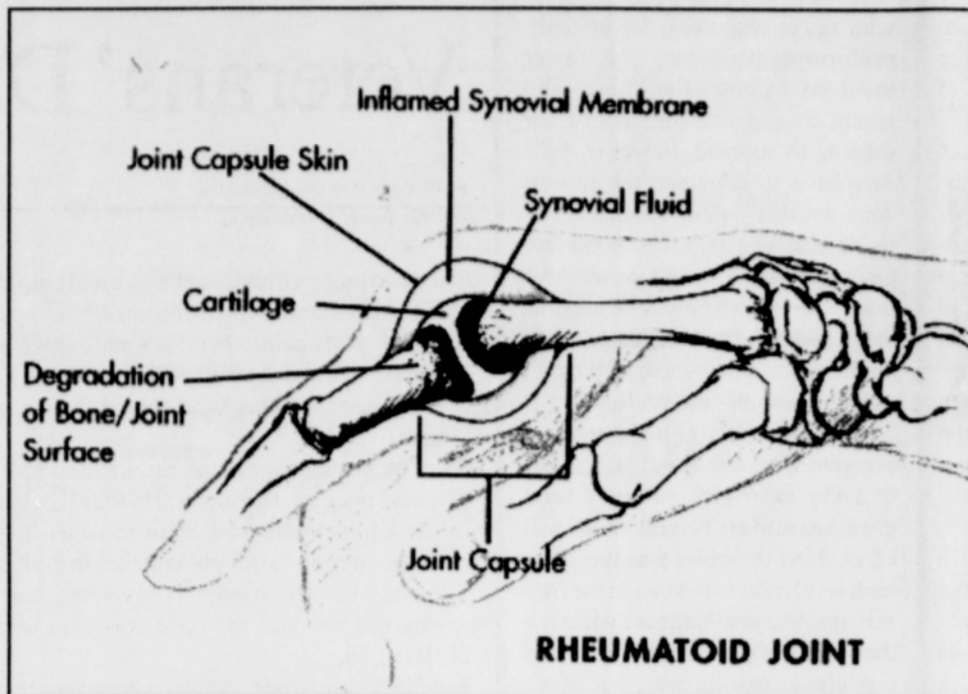


Health/Education

Portland study; does rheumatoid arthritis pain medication work?

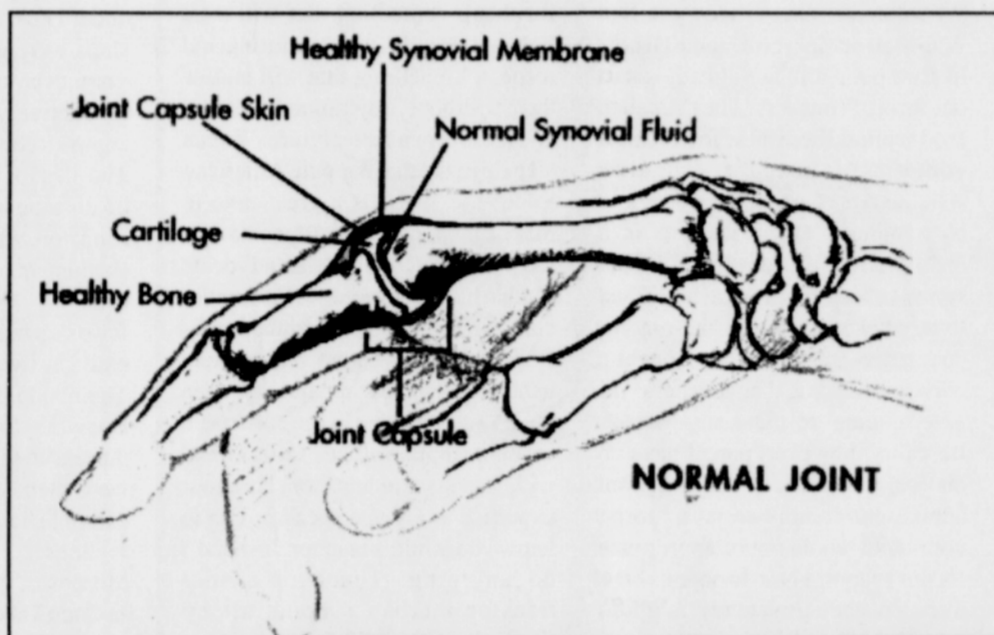
CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is a life-altering disease characterized by chronic inflammation of the joints and surrounding tissue, which affects more than two million Americans. Long-term use of pain medications to treat RA may cause stomach and digestive tract problems, often with no noticeable symptoms, and may even become so severe as to require surgery. But a possible new option for treating RA is being investigated at West Hills Gastroenterology in Portland to see if it causes fewer stomach problems. Eligible participants will receive an endoscopy at no cost, in order to assess any existing GI problems. RA sufferers interested in enrolling can call toll-free at 1-877-20-STUDY. When an RA patient experiences a flare (which is when tissue becomes inflamed), knuckles swell to twice their normal size and the pain can be excruciating, impacting normal daily activities such as buttoning a shirt, grocery shopping and walking the dog. In fact, 50 percent of RA sufferers are considered too disabled to work as early as 10 years after the onset of the disease. Chronic inflammation of the joints can cause permanent damage and deformity, and because the disease is systemic, it may affect the body as a whole, rather than just affecting individual body parts.



Because GI problems can go unrecognized so easily by an RA sufferer, and endoscopy may help monitor GI health and avoid unnecessary complications. At West Hills Gastroenterology study participants will receive an endoscopy at no cost to them, in order to assess any existing GI problems. If the participant qualifies to partake in the

research study, after an initial endoscopy is performed, each patient will receive care by gastroenterologists who will closely monitor each patient's GI health by conducting two more endoscopies throughout the study. This medical research study lasts approximately 16 weeks, and patients who enroll will receive either a placebo or the study drug, which is approved for other conditions. To find out more about this medical research study taking place at West Hills Gastroenterology or to get a list of other sites participating in this research study across the United States, the toll free study hotline is 1-877-20-STUDY (1-877-207-8839). Or, visit the study website at www.rastudy.com.



Expert on women and violence speaks at PSU

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The population of women prisoners in the United States has quadrupled in the last 15 years. Angela Browne, PH.D., internationally known for her research on women and violence, speaks about the links between early childhood exposure to violence and the increasing rates of incarceration for women. Browne spent 10 years as consulting psychologist at Bedford Hills, New York State maximum security prison for women, living inside the prison one week a month to get the first hand stories of the lives of these forgotten women. Browne is working on her second book, Pathways to Prison, which tells their stories. She speaks at PSU on November 30, 7:30 PM, Lincoln Hall. Born and raised in Newberg, Oregon, Browne went to college to study social psychology. Her current work began in 1979, interviewing women for the Colorado-based Battered Women Syndrome Study sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health. Browne's Ph.D. dissertation led to writing the book, When Battered Women Kill. She is the author of the American Medical Association's and the American Psychological Association's policy statements on violence against women, as well as the National Academy of Sciences' report on violence between intimates. She is currently a senior research scientist at the Harvard School of Public Health's Injury Control Research Center. Dr. Browne is an engaging speaker and should be of interest to professionals and public alike, who share a concern for the growing prison population in this country and the effects of childhood violence on women and children. She will be talking about her findings and showing a short video of the women she represents.

Sponsored By: Activists for Women in Prison, the Women's Student Union of Portland State University and the PSU Educational Activities Speakers Board

Where: Lincoln Hall Auditorium, P.S.U. (between Market & Mill St. on Broadway)

When: Tuesday, November 30, at 7:30 PM.

Cost: Donation between \$5-25 requested but not required. Students free with ID.

Parking: Parking is free in PSU structures after 7 PM.



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State wants comment on school report cards

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Following feedback from the public and education community, the Oregon Department of Education revised the school report card that will be issued annually beginning in January 2000.

The department will hold meetings in Ontario, Salem, Portland and Roseburg in November to get reaction to revised report before the State Board of Education is asked to approve the document on Dec. 2. The revision is posted on the Department's web page (www.ode.state.or.us).

The 1999 Legislature, wanting schools to be more accountable, required the report cards. It said they must contain information on student performance and behavior and school characteristics, but it allowed the Oregon Department of Education to decide what to include under those general categories.

"We are not designing this in Salem," said State Schools Supt. Stan Bunn. "We want document that is fair to student, valuable for parents and contains good data."

The Department in September held regional sessions in 12 Oregon cities and in addition, received electronic responses on its web page.

"We are delighted by the quantity and quality of responses," said Dawn Billings, curriculum director for the Department. "The revision reflects what we heard."

"For example, people wanted more than a one-year snapshot of information about dropout numbers and attendance," said Billings. "So we will report data that will chart a three-year trend."

The first report card will be an abbreviated version. "This report will improve over time. For instance, the public told us they want to know where the dollars are going. The Department is building a data base initiative which will include this information at the school level."

Here is the schedule of the November meeting: Malheur Public Library, Ontario, Monday, Nov. 8, at 5:30 p.m.; Roth's West Salem (Santiam Room), Salem, Tuesday, Nov. 9 at 6 p.m.; Multnomah County Library (Central Branch), Portland, Wednesday, Nov. 10, at 6 p.m. The sessions will allow input for an initial draft of a district report card that will be issued next January. Unlike the school report cards the district report card will not receive an overall rating. Billing said she hopes the public and education community will continue to use the Department's web page to review and comment on the most recent versions of the report cards. "We view our web page as an electronic town hall and will take comments seriously," she said.

