

**RHEUMATHOLOGY COURSE FOR VI YEAR STUDENTS OF  
MEDICAL-STOMATOLOGICAL FACULTY**

The teaching unit:

Klinika Reumatologii i Chorób Wewnętrznych

(Department of Rheumatology and Internal Diseases)

Ul. Unii Lubelskiej 1

71 – 252 Szczecin

Head of Department:

Associate Prof. Marek Brzosko M.D., Ph.D.

Teaching coordinator:

Iwona Brzosko, M.D., Ph.D.

Total time scheduled: 35 hours, including

12 hours of seminars and 23 hours of practical classes

<b><i>The aim of the course</i></b>
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The rheumatic diseases are a group of diseases, that early diagnostics and treatment might be very difficult. Similarity of their symptoms with other diseases is a common reason of diagnostic failures.

The involvement of internal organs of vital importance in the course of rheumatic diseases without any musculoskeletal manifestations requires special attention.

Huge progress that happened very recently in clinical immunopathology was a background for a real breakthrough in the

understanding of pathogenesis of many immune mediated disease and for their successful treatment.

The purpose of the course is presenting a comprehensive picture of clinical presentation, diagnostics, differentiation and treatment of the rheumatic diseases.

Practical classes are designed to improve the skills of clinical assessment consisting of thorough history collection and detailed physical examination including the musculoskeletal system. The students are also supposed to master the interpretation of laboratory tests and imaging techniques (including joint fluid evaluation, serological tests, joint X-ray, MRI and CT scans).

<b><i>Topics of the seminars</i></b>
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- I. Rheumatoid arthritis – clinical presentation, extraarticular manifestations, diagnostic procedures, differential diagnosis, treatment. The students are supposed to know the theory of musculoskeletal system assessment.
  
- II. Systemic connective tissue diseases – classification criteria, advanced tools used in diagnostics and grading of the systemic involvement. Serological tests of vascular complications of connective tissue diseases. Importance of antinuclear, anticardiolipin and antiendothelial antibodies. Treatment.  
Systemic lupus erythematosus. Antiphospholipid syndrome.
  
- III. Vasculitides. Dermato- and polymyositis. Diagnostic criteria. Clinical relevance of antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA). Current treatment and its complications.

- IV. Systemic sclerosis, mixed connective tissue disease, overlap syndromes, sicca syndrome.
- V. Seronegative spondyloarthropathies – definition, clinical subtypes, systemic involvement, diagnostics, treatment. Osteoporosis – definition, risk factors. Osteoporosis in rheumatic diseases. Diagnostics of osteoporosis: dual energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA), markers of bone turnover. Strategy of treatment.
- VI. Reactive arthritis – definitions, etiopathogenesis, symptomatology, diagnostics, treatment. Musculoskeletal and connective tissue-like symptoms of HIV infection. Crystallopaties - definitions, diagnostic criteria, associated diseases, diagnostics, treatment and monitoring.
- VII. Osteoarthritis – pathogenesis, clinical subtypes, diagnostics and management. Soft tissue rheumatism.

The students are obliged to be familiar with the subjects of the seminars. Practical classes refer to the seminars.

The teaching involves also classes in out-patient clinic, classes in the laboratory of the Department of Rheumatology performing all the tests used in diagnostics of the connective tissue diseases, presentation of capillaroscopy and ultrasonographic examination of musculoskeletal system.

<b><i>Literature</i></b>
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Davidson's Principles and Practice of Medicine. Churchill Livingstone.

Kelley's Textbook of Rheumatology. Saunders Elsevier.