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### **The complementary imaging exams in rheumatology "perspective of family medicine"**

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Rheumatic diseases are a major part of the clinical routine of the Family Doctor. The clinical history, analytical assessment and radiological profile are vital components for the diagnosis of those diseases. Although most of the imaging complementary exams are performed by Radiologists, it is important for the Family Physician to be acquainted with the major findings. In this regard, we aimed to identify the main findings detected in imaging studies considered in the diagnosis of rheumatic diseases, with particular emphasis to X-rays.

**Method:** It was carried out a scientific review with information taken from rheumatologic and radiologic databases.

**Results:** An approach was made to systematize the following points:

- When to order the imaging exams
- Which of the exams should be requested
- Identify the findings that are part of the rheumatic diseases spectrum
- The specific characteristics of the most common pathologies
- How to differentiate findings suggesting inflammatory arthritis and osteoarthritis
- How to correlate imaging findings with the clinical history and analytical alterations

**Conclusions:** Through this work, it is intended that the Family Doctor is able to improve the ability to diagnose rheumatic diseases."