Reasoning Rheumatology









Barn door cases

Strongly Inflammatory Back Pain Multiple inflamed joints











Harder Referrals



Diffuse/non specific pain

Connective Tissue Disorders

4 or less joints (oligoarthritis)

Diffuse/non specific pain



Know related systems Inflammatory clues Specific symptoms?



Connective Tissue Disorders



Don't forget they exist Predominant none MSK symptoms Investigation Challenges

Oligoarthritis



Early Inflammatory Arthritis Inflammatory Osteoarthritis Injury "Mechanical"

Clinical Reasoning

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Inflammatory Pattern Distribution Unilateral / bilateral / upper&lower







Don't Refer Refer Watchful Wait Phone a friend





Consider Rheumatology Disorders Flag Inflammatory Comorbidities Acknowledge its not easy Get help Retain a working diagnosis



For Example



Plantar Heel Pain + tendon history + back pain + inflammatory pattern + psoriasis



Reasoning Rheumatology



