

1. The Question

Do you know which drugs meant to treat arthritis are best?

Sure, you've seen the commercials and probably even know someone with arthritis, but how do you know what will help those who hurt?

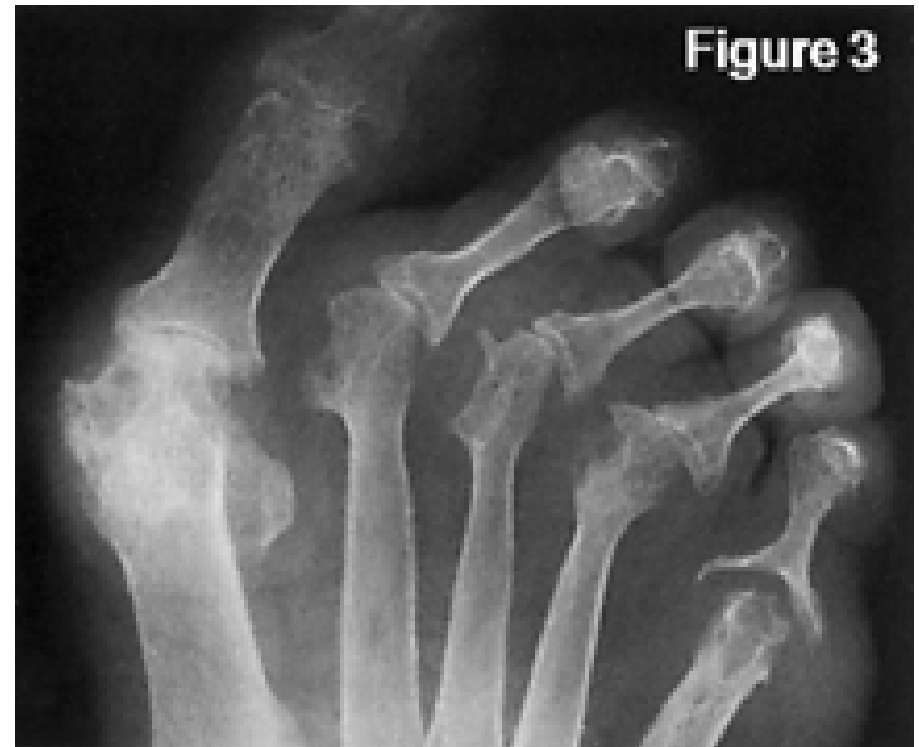


Figure 3

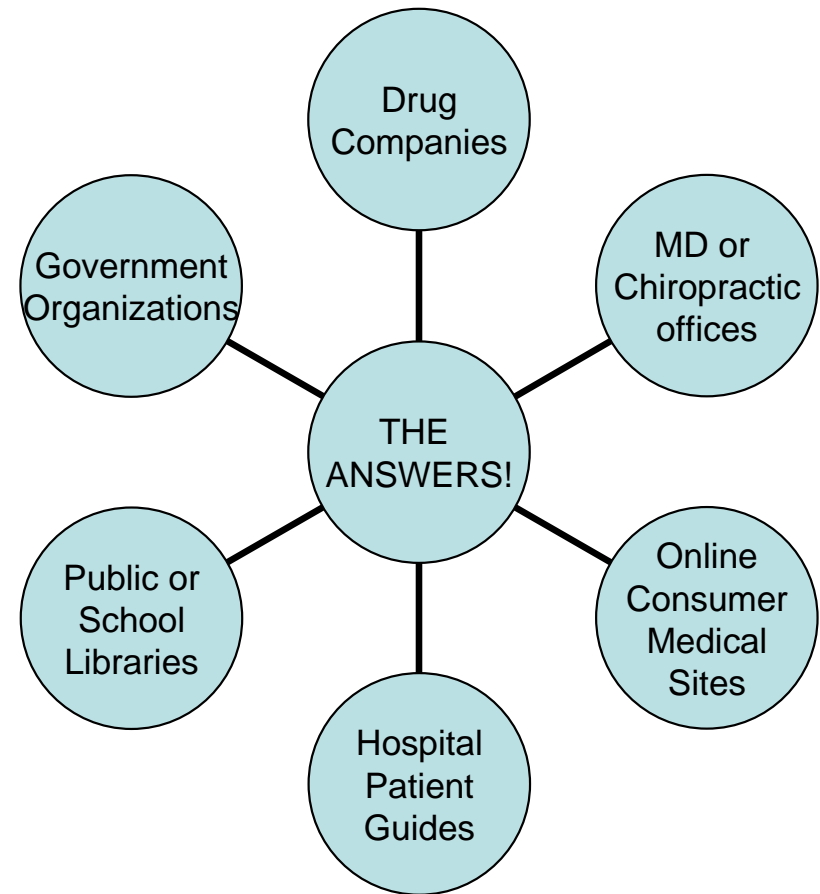
A foot with painful, advanced rheumatoid arthritis

Illustration from www.cascadewellnessclinic.com

2. Information Sources

You can use information resources in books, magazines, film, offices, or on the Internet to find answers

BUT, it's important to find accurate information, so not just any old magazine or web site will do!



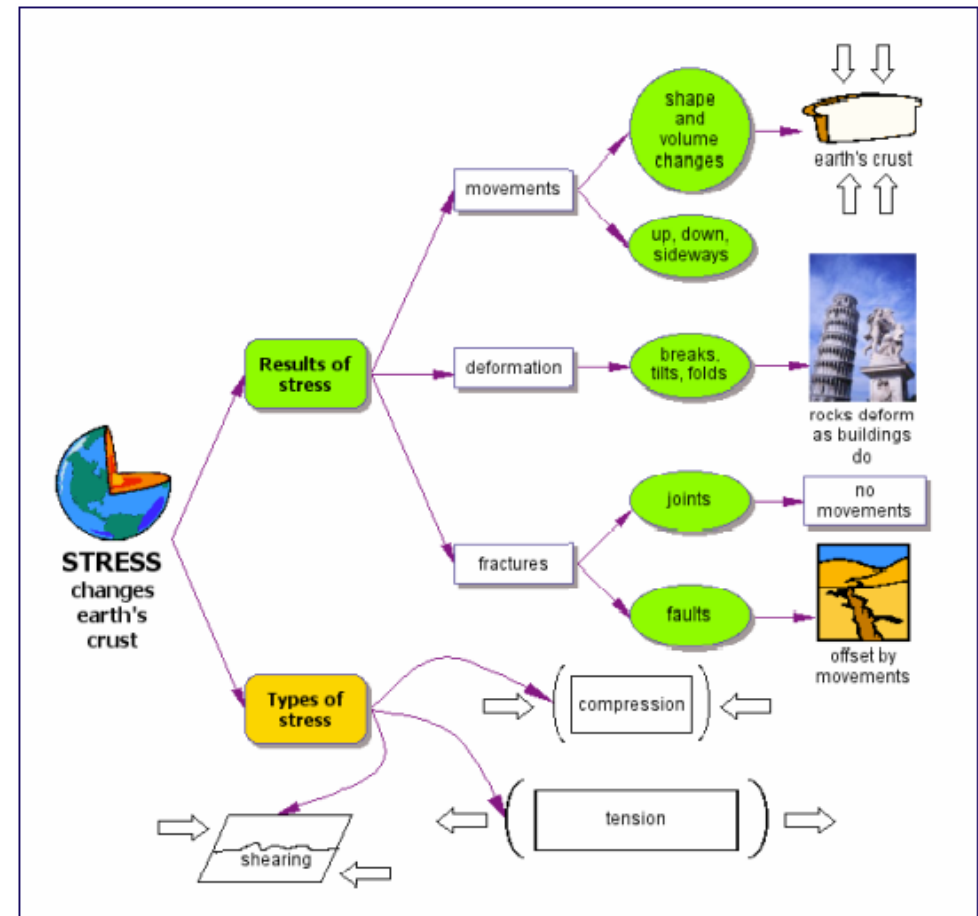
3. The Student Activity

The handout you have been given provides examples of quality web sites for learning about drugs that might be used to treat arthritis.

Your job is to pick a few that seem popular, then find information that tells about those drugs to allow you to compare them.

For this lesson, you will concentrate on exploring these sources, learning about arthritis drugs in general, and deciding on which drugs to investigate.

Later lessons will allow you to learn about evaluating what you find, refine your search, look for patterns in the information that help you decide which drug is best, and then report your findings using Inspiration software to build a chart something like the example from a science investigation at right



Inspiration used to report data from science research
Source: <http://www.inspiration.com> case studies

4. The Assessment Activity

Some of your handouts are self-assessment tools useful as guides to your investigation and how it is going for you. One contains tips and self assessment on what makes a good information inquiry process and the other is a guide to what makes a successful Inspiration product. In a later lesson, you will also get to assess how well your chart turns out and if it works well to reveal what you learned.

For this lesson, use these assessments as guides to help steer you in this Lesson 1 Questioning and Planning part of the unit for now:

http://www.bcpl.net/~sullivan/modules/tips/rubrics_sec/stud_rubric.html

http://www.bcpl.net/~sullivan/modules/tips/rubrics_sec/graphic_org.html

We will use this same tool for each lesson as you build on the research process and as you come back to refine your questions and plan.

5. Resources to get you started



The following are sites about arthritis and/or arthritis drugs:

- <http://www.arthritis.org> - Arthritis Foundation
- <http://lore.inspire.net/subject.html> - Go to “student researcher” and then the health area
- <http://arthritis.about.com/cs/druggen/a/arthdrugoptions.htm> - general info
- <http://www.niams.nih.gov/hi/topics/arthritis/ffrheumatoid.htm> - National Institute of Arthritis and ... Fast Facts about Arthritis (Easy to Read)
- <http://www.kidshealth.org/teen/> - consumer health info site written especially for teens

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6. Teacher Support Materials

See the unit overview for standards in health and in information literacy.

The online assessments listed in the overview are also intended for use by the instructor as well as for self-eval by the students.

This concludes Lesson 1 of a seven lesson unit addressing information inquiry in the area of health.

Lesson1: Questioning and Planning

Lesson2: Gathering/Sorting/ Sifting 1

Lesson3: Gathering/Sorting/Sifting 2

Lesson4: Synthesis and Evaluation;
Time to stop and "take inventory"

Lesson5: Gathering/Sorting/Sifting 3

Lesson6: Final Synthesis &
Evaluation

Lesson7: Presentation and Reflection
(Jointly w/ 8th/10th grades).