Polyarthralgia/Polyarticular Joint Pain

Generalised joint pain with inflammatory features

Polyarthralgia*

Small joint swelling

Yes

Persistent early morning stiffness (>1hr)
Partial response to NSAID
Rashes or Raynaud’s
Family H/o RA

Yes

FBC, ESR, CRP
U+E, LFT, Rh F
ANA urinalysis
XR Affected joints

Consider RA (ACR Criteria*)
(ESR↑, RF +ive)
NSAIDS
Analgesia
Splint

No

Persistent early morning stiffness
Rashes
Photosensitivity
Raynaud’s
Dry eyes/dry mouth
Nail Dystrophy

Go to Differential diagnosis*
NSAIDs
Analgesia
Splint
Physio for pain relief

Systemically unwell

Yes

No

If symptoms persist after 4/52

Urgent

Soon

Rheumatology