

## EULAR – Rheumatoid arthritis definition criteria

The European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) define rheumatoid arthritis based on the criteria in the table below:

Feature	Possible Scores for each feature	
<b>A. Joint involvement (swollen or tender)</b>		
1 large joint	0	
2 -10 large joints	1	
1-3 small joints (with or without involvement of large joints)#	2	
4-10 small joints (with or without involvement of large joints)	3	
>10 joints (at least 1 small joint)**	5	
<p>“Large joints” refers to shoulders, elbows, hips, knees, and ankles.                      # “Small joints” refers to the metacarpophalangeal joints, proximal interphalangeal joints, second through fifth metatarsophalangeal joints, thumb interphalangeal joints, and wrists.</p>		
<b>B. Duration of symptoms</b> (refers to patient self-report of the duration of signs or symptoms of synovitis (e.g., pain, swelling, tenderness) of joints that are clinically involved at the time of assessment, regardless of treatment status)		
< 6 weeks	0	
≥ 6 weeks	1	
<b>C. Serology (at least 1 test result is needed for classification)††</b>		
Negative RF and negative ACPA	0	
Low-positive RF or low-positive ACPA	2	
High-positive RF or high-positive ACPA	3	
<b>D. Acute-phase reactants (at least 1 test result is needed for classification)‡‡</b>		
Normal CRP and normal ESR	0	
Abnormal CRP or abnormal ESR	1	
<b>Classification criteria for RA (score-based algorithm: sum the scores of categories A–D. A score of ≥ 6/10 is needed for classification of a patient as having definite RA)</b>		
<p>** In this category, at least 1 of the involved joints must be a small joint; the other joints can include any combination of large and additional small joints, as well as other joints not specifically listed elsewhere (e.g., temporomandibular, acromioclavicular, sternoclavicular, etc.). †† Negative refers to International Units (IU) values that are less than or equal to the upper limit of normal (ULN) for the laboratory and assay; low-positive refers to IU values that are higher than the ULN but ≤3 times the ULN for the laboratory and assay; high-positive refers to IU values that are &gt;3 times the ULN for the laboratory and assay. Where rheumatoid factor (RF) information is only available as positive or negative, a positive result should be scored as low-positive for RF. ACPA = anti-citrullinated protein antibody. ‡‡ Normal/abnormal is determined by local laboratory standards. CRP = C-reactive protein; ESR = erythrocyte sedimentation rate.</p>		