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## **A digital vascular malformation masquerading as synovitis**

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A 49-year old lady with a history of seronegative rheumatoid arthritis was reviewed in clinic with swelling of her right index finger which was most marked around the metacarpophalangeal joint and proximal phalanx. The swelling was warm and boggy. She had been taking methotrexate 15mg orally for 2 years, having failed prior treatment with hydroxychloroquine. The remainder of her joints were not swollen or tender and her blood investigations revealed normal inflammatory markers. There was no history of trauma and the lesion had developed progressively over the past 9 months.

Figure 1, a coronal edema sensitive sequence (FS PD) shows a multilobulated, high signal, infiltrative lesion within the palmar subcutaneous tissues extending towards the second web space. Figure 2, an axial fat suppressed (T1) post contrast image demonstrates again an infiltrative, heterogeneously enhancing lesion abutting the second flexor tendon sheath consistent with a low-flow venous malformation. No evidence of synovitis was noted confirming the clinical impression of rheumatoid arthritis in remission.

This case serves as a timely reminder to consider other pathologies in those with rheumatoid arthritis.