

# Crystal Deposition Diseases



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*the*  
**International Skeletal Society**

Case 1. 58y, F, wrist pain for 2 weeks.

## Diagnosis: Pyrophosphate Arthropathy

- Inflammatory Arthritis
- CPPD crystals are pro-inflammatory particles
- Can cause synovial inflammation



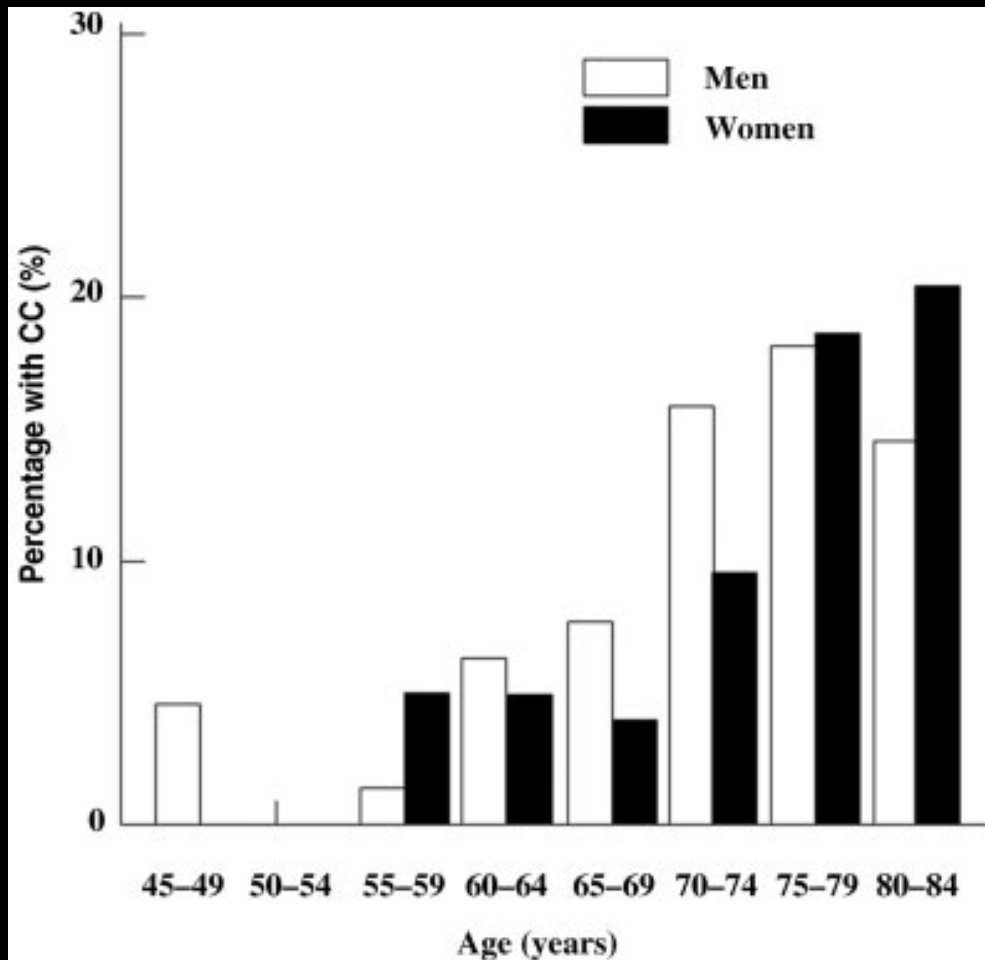
T2 fat saturation



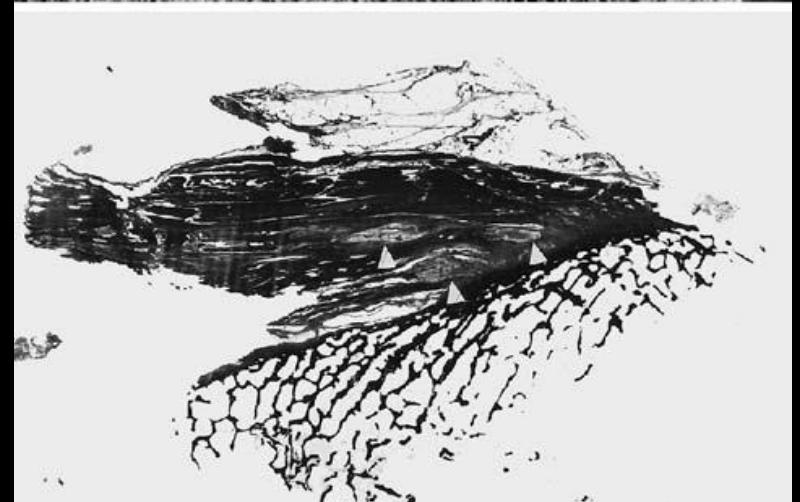
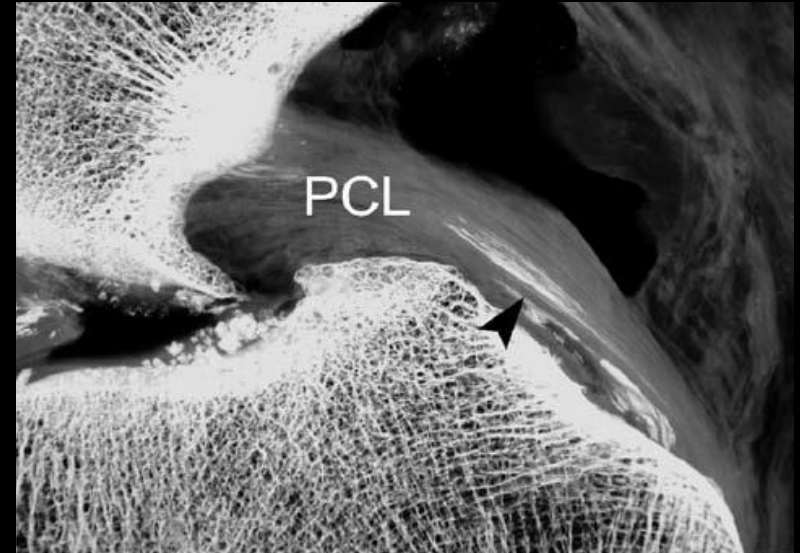
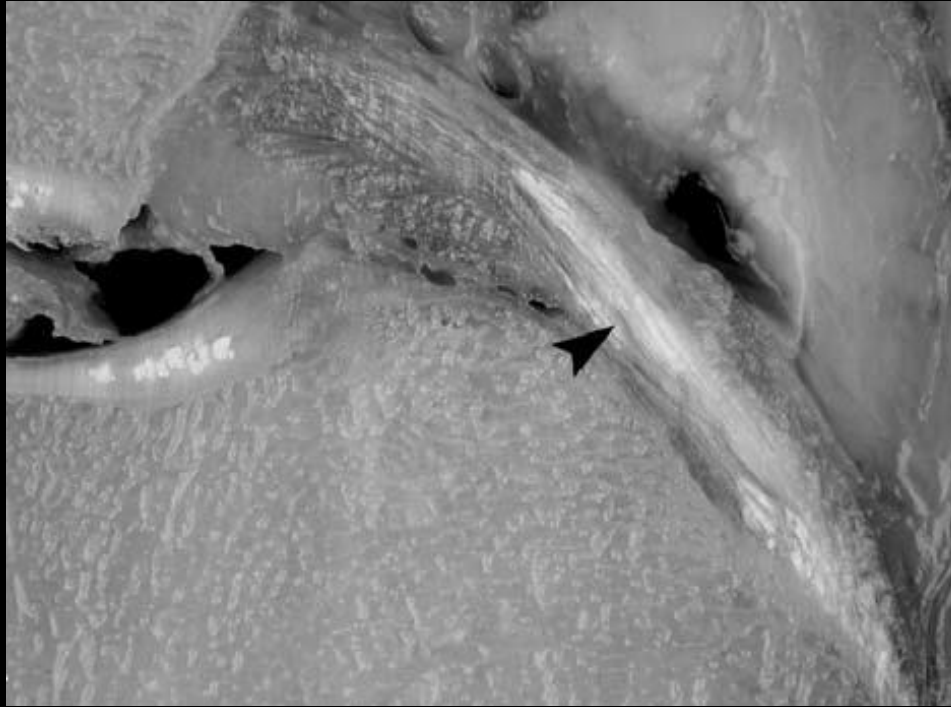
# Calcium Pyrophosphate Dihydrate (CPPD) Crystals Normally Deposit in MSK System

**CPPD sporadic deposit of CPPD** is a common condition in the Elderly

- 8-10% of people aged 60 years. 20-40% at age 80y



Picture from UCSD Research Lab 2002



*Berna*<sup>1,2</sup>, *Abreu*<sup>2</sup>, *Resnick*<sup>2</sup>, UCSD study presented at ECR 2011

# CPPD and OA

## causative factor or consequence?



An association between OA and CPPD is well recognized however...

- the precise relationship is unclear!
- CPPD is a cause of OA or develops as a consequence of the cartilage changes that accompany OA?

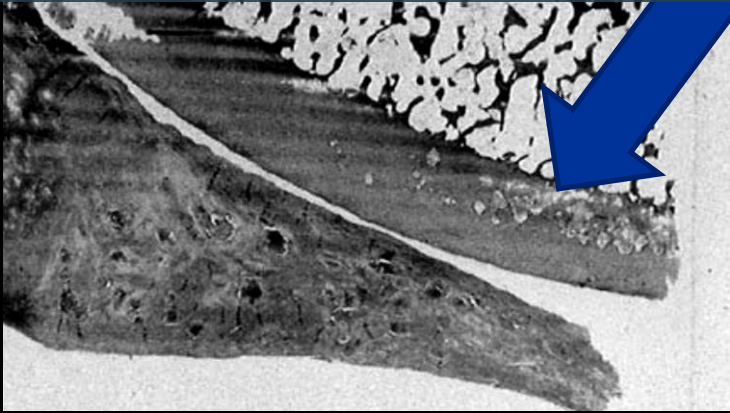


# CPPD and OA

## causative factor or consequence?

*CPPD may be a marker of a reparative process by metabolically active chondrocytes.*

- 100 patients who had undergone unilateral **meniscectomy** (20 year)
- showed **CPPD in 20% of operated knees** compared with 4% of contralateral unoperated knee



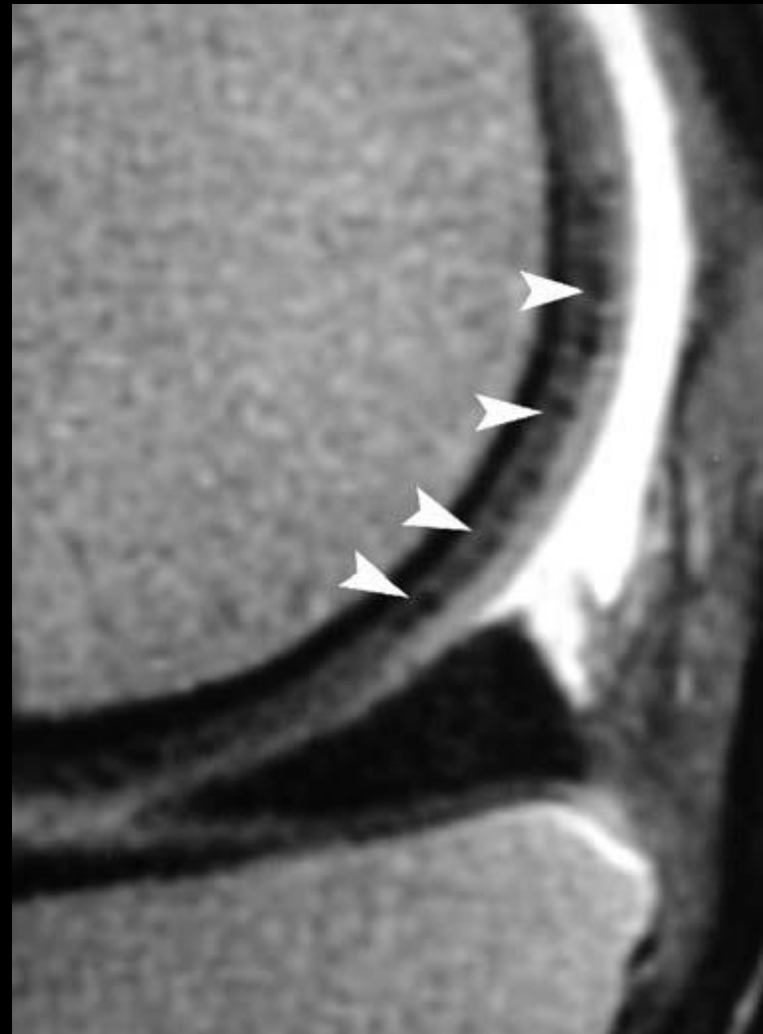
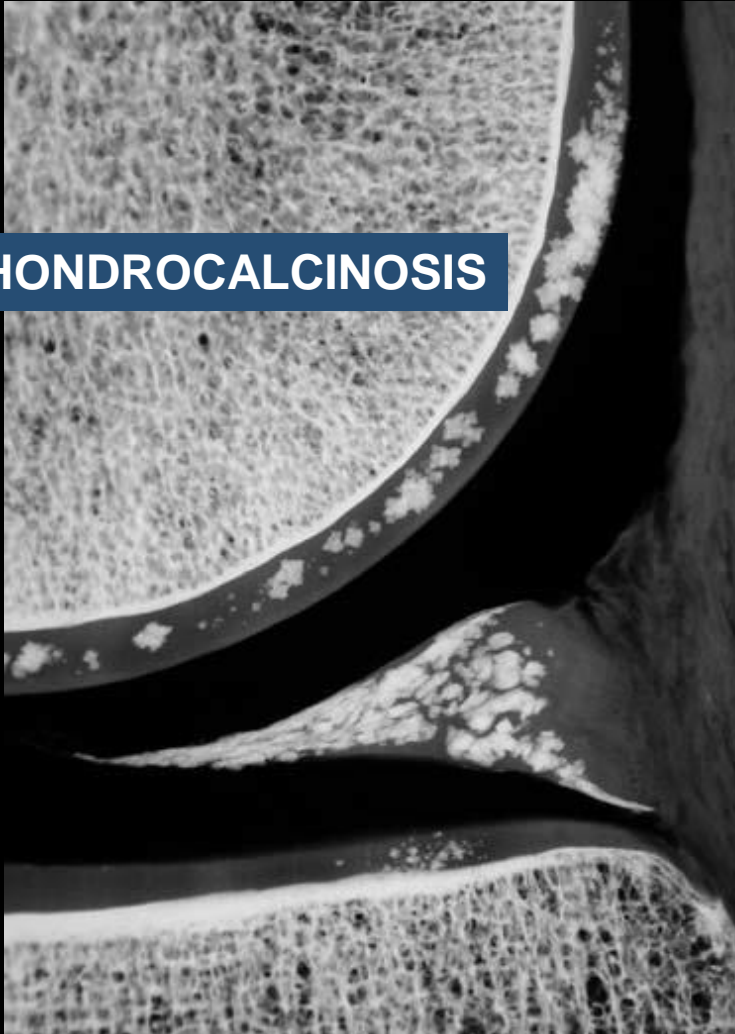
the suggestion that CPPD could be a marker of poor prognosis in knee OA was **not confirmed** in several other longitudinal studies

How accurate is MR imaging for CPPD deposits?

**Faxitron radiograph of cadaver specimen**

**Sagittal PD-weighted MR image of same spec**

**CHONDROCALCINOSIS**



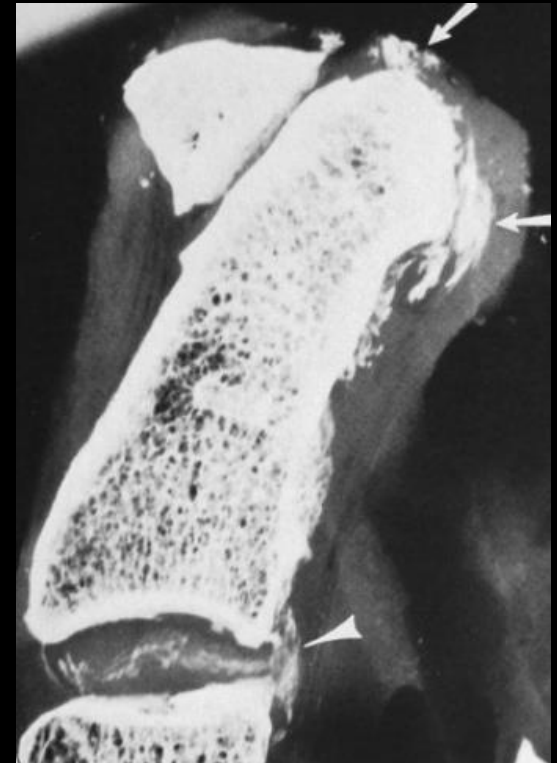
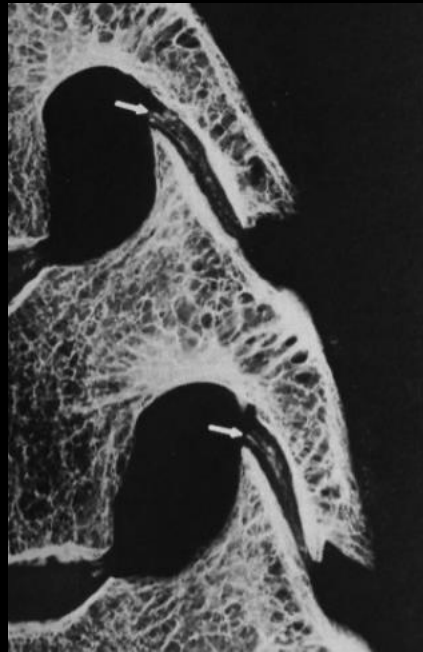
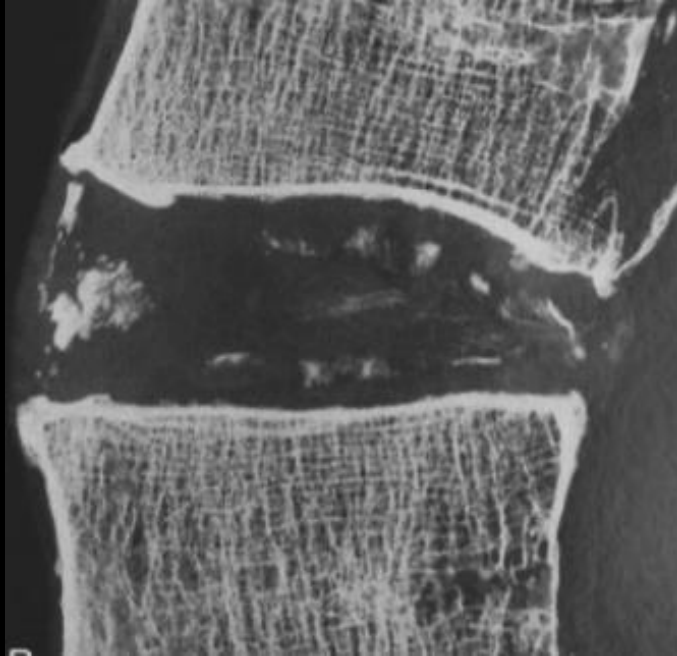
**Abreu, Chung CB, Resnick D. CPPD crystalline deposits in the knee: anatomic, radiographic, MR imaging, and histologic study in cadavers. Skel Rad 2004**



# Calcium Pyrophosphate Dihydrate (CPPD)

## Normally Deposits in SPINE (discs, lig., joints)

- 26% of autopsies studies.



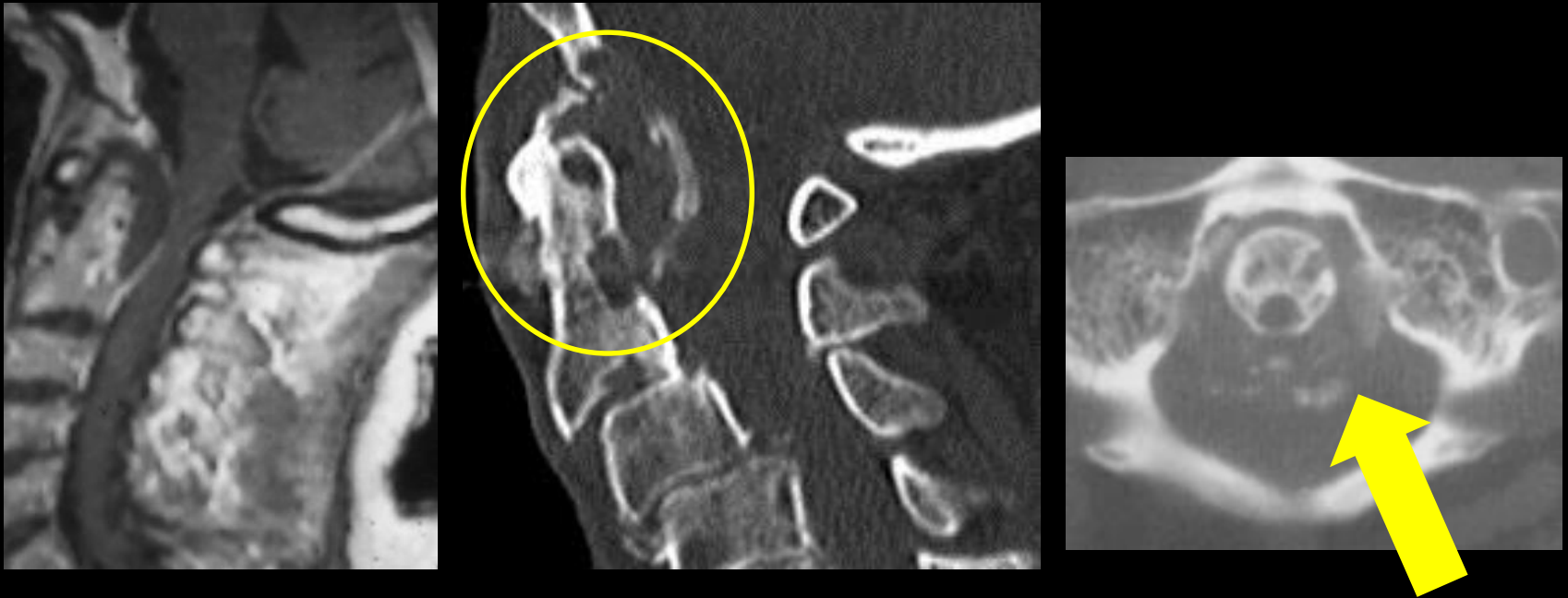
*Resnik & Niwayama*

- In the cervical spine, serious complications have been reported
  - cervical myelopathy (calcification of cervical ligamentum flavum, transverse ligament of the atlas, odontoid fracture).

*(Pritzker. Orthop Clin North Am 1977;*

**Case 2. 77y , W, occipital pain, motion limitation, myelopathy**

## **Crowned Dens Syndrome**

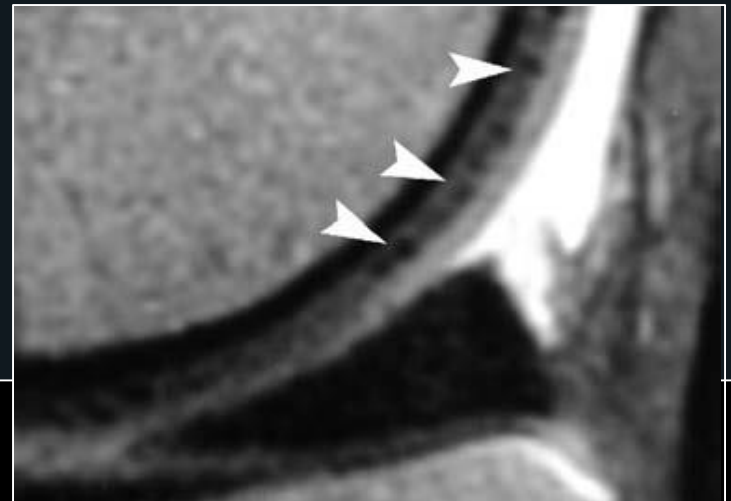


*Exaggerated CPPD Deposition at C1-C2*

# MRI in CPPD

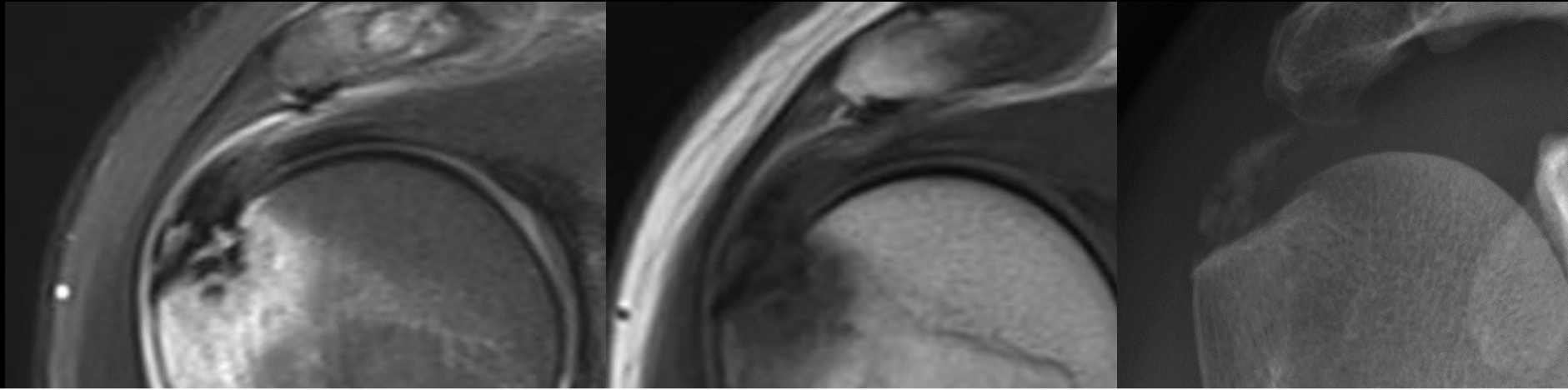
## MR imaging diagnostic features in joint CPPD

- CPPD commonly encountered in elderly asymptomatic
- MR has low accuracy for CPPD deposits
- MR detects Inflammatory Arthropathy (synovitis, pannus), but needs correlation with x-ray or CT for final diagnosis



Case 3. 40y, M, Shoulder pain for 1 week.

## Calcific Tendinitis (Hydroxyapatite)



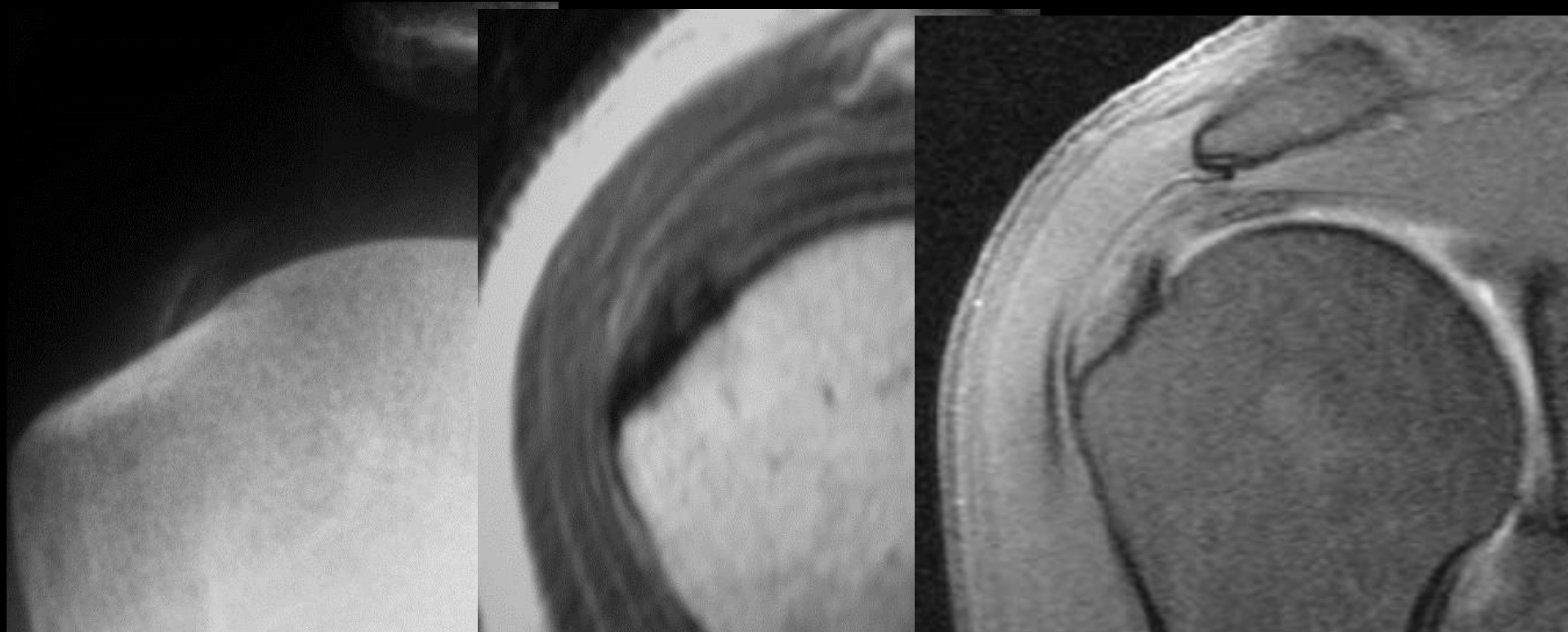
- **Common in asymptomatic persons (when confined)**
- **Most commonly: Supraspinatus tendon insertion**
- Less common: tendons of infraspinatus, subscapularis, deltoid, wrist, elbow, gluteus maximus, knee, and neck.
- Inflammation and edema can occur

How accurate is MR imaging for Hydroxyapatite deposits?



# Hydroxyapatite Crystal Deposition

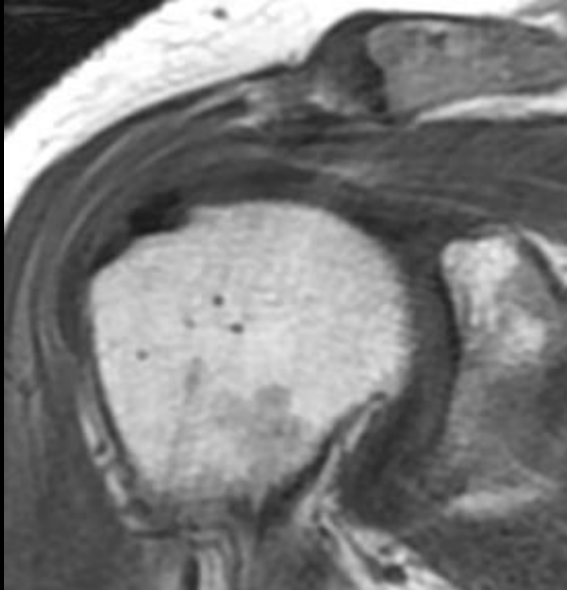
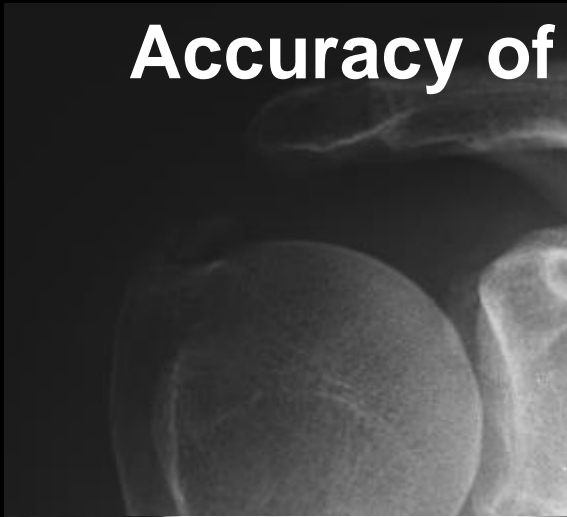
Low Accuracy of MR: 62%-66%



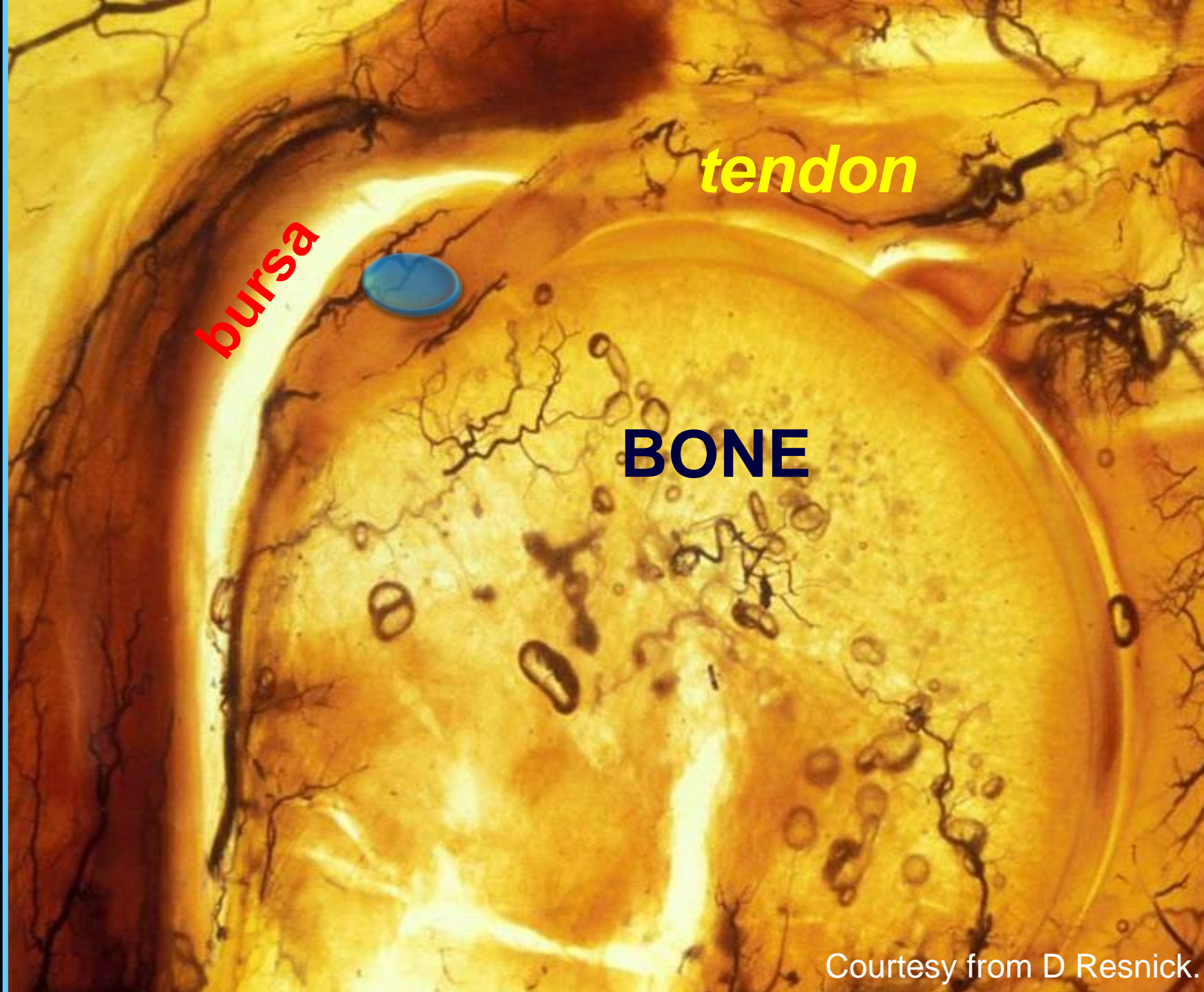
Many False Negatives and False Positives of MR

# Hydroxyapatite Crystal Deposition

Accuracy of MR increases with inflammation

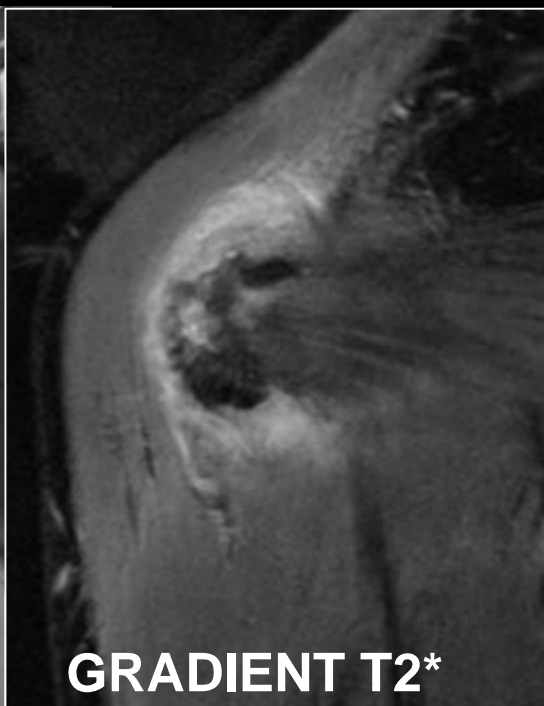
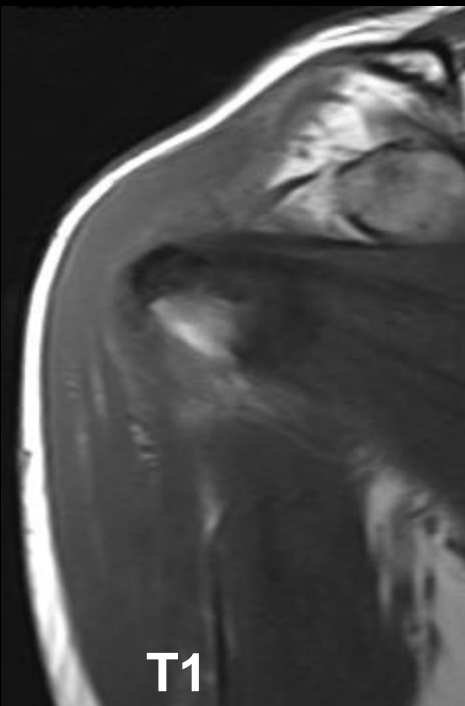






Courtesy from D Resnick.

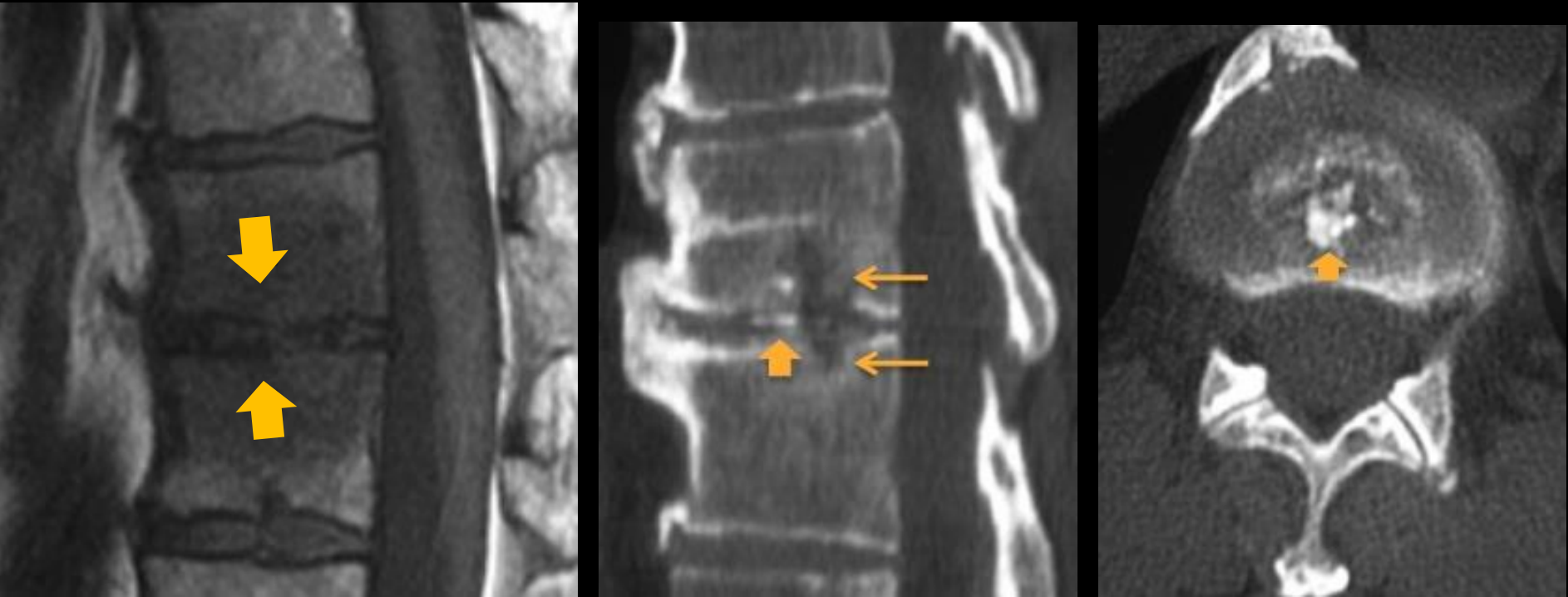
## Case 4. 47y, F, Shoulder pain for 3 weeks.



**MR-Angio (GAD)**

**Case 5. 63y, F, Pain for 1 month, high VSG and RCP**

## **Hydroxyapatite Crystal Deposition**



**Bone migration, inflammatory response**

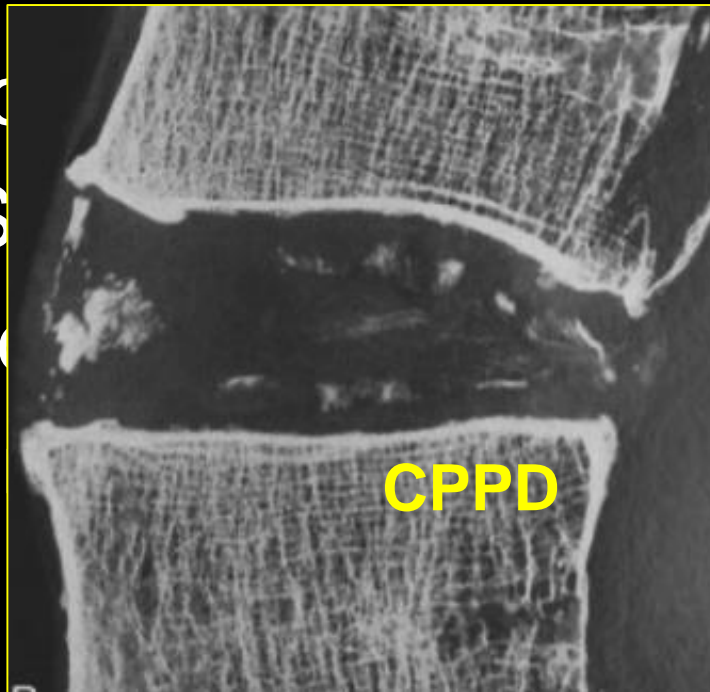


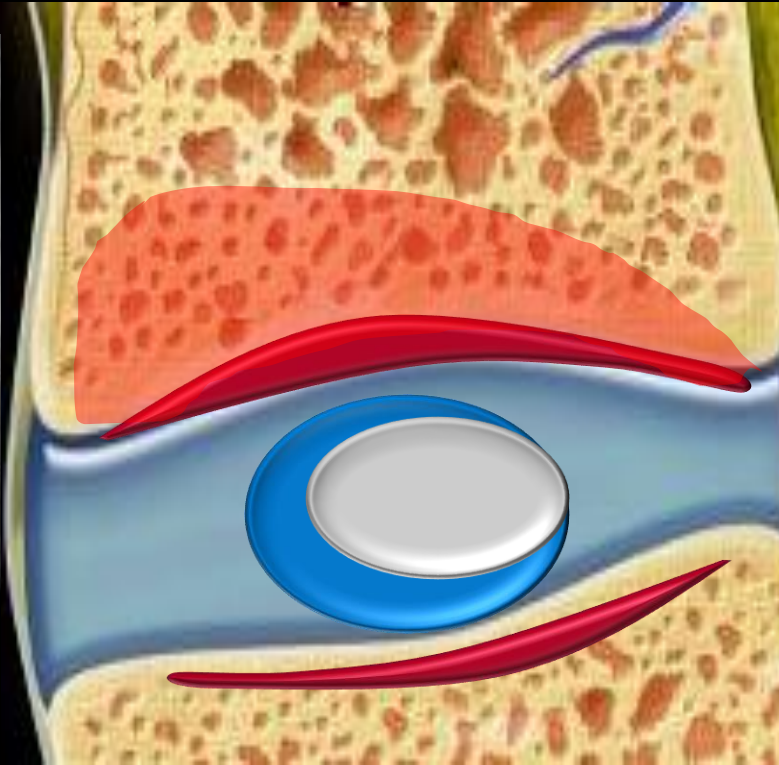
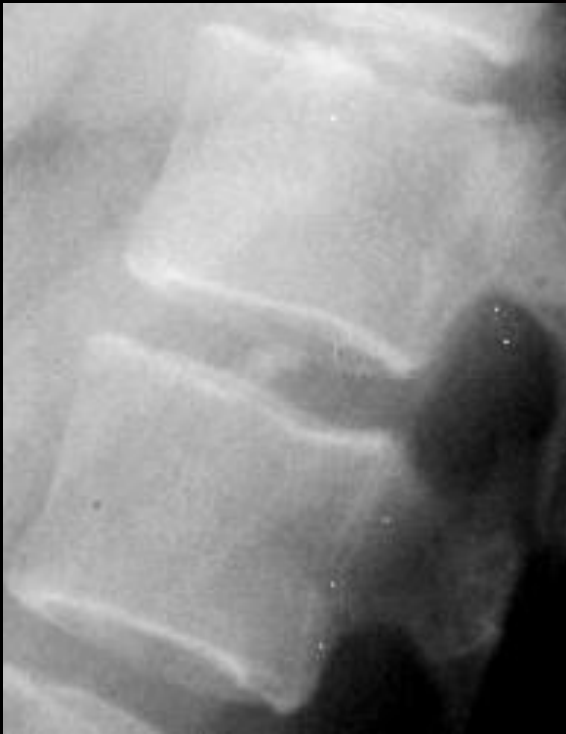
# Disc Hydroxyapatite Crystal Deposition

- *Intervertebral Disc Apatite*
- *Phosphocalcic Bruschte*
- *Apatite Rheumatism*

Can also

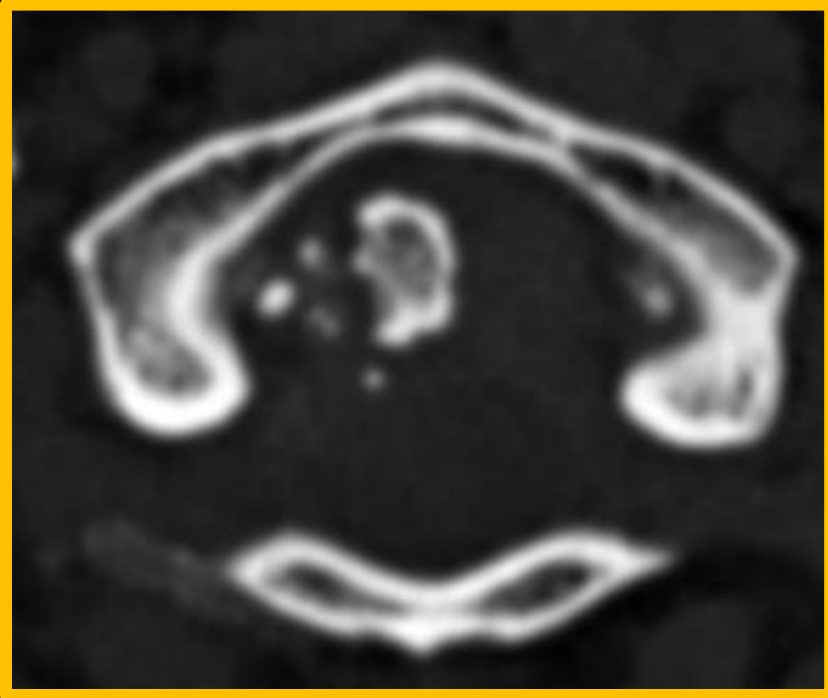
- Disc S
- Hemoc
- Ochro



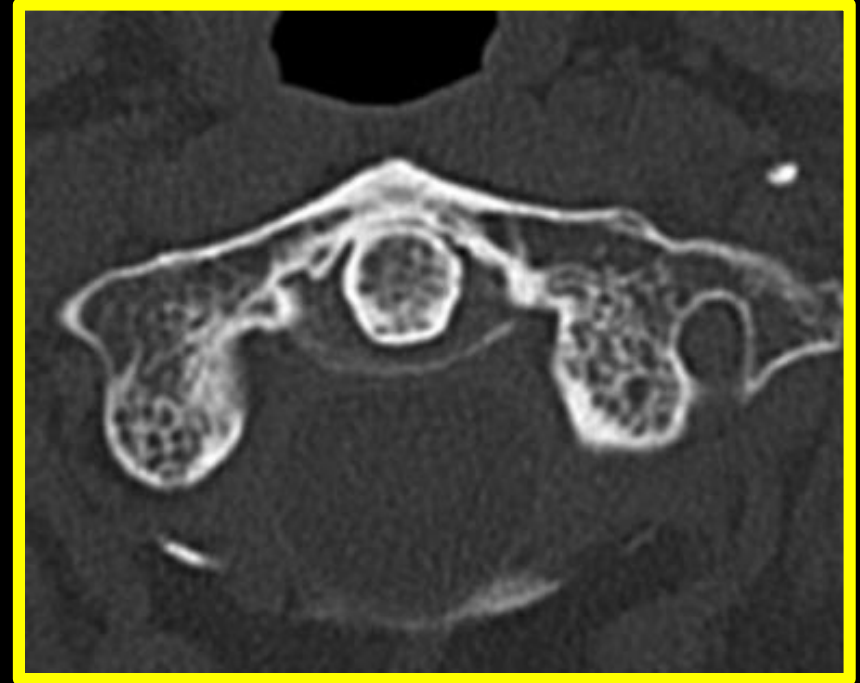


# Apatite x CPPD

*morphology of calcification*

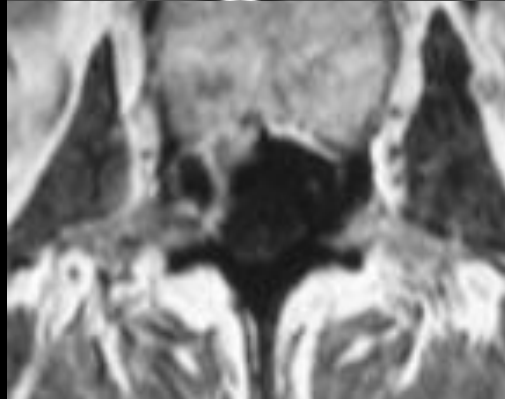
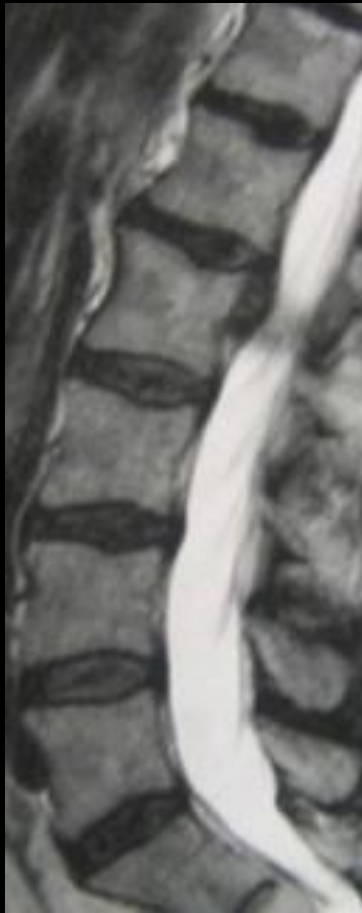


**Round dense calcification  
Cloud like appearance**



**Linear ``CROWNED DENS``**

# Disc Hydroxyapatite Crystal Deposition



***Differentiate from:***

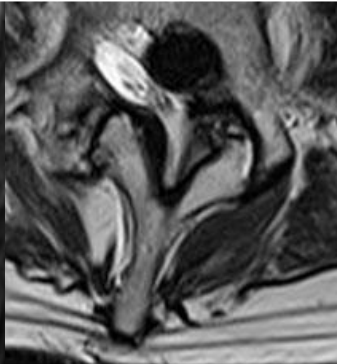
**Destructive Discovertebral Deg Disease (DDDD)**

**Malalignment**

**Degenerative Disc Loss**

**End-plate failure**

**“bone sand” within the spinal canal.**



Charran, Pulicino V. Destructive discovertebral degenerative disease of the lumbar spine. Skel Rad 2012



# MRI in Hydroxyapatite

- MR detects Inflammatory changes when deposits migrate from quiescent stage to bone or soft tissue
- Spine cases can be more challenging
- CT correlation very helpful
- Need better MR sequence to se bone/calcium would help (Zero TE)



Case 6. 62y, M, Hallux pain and edema  
**Monosodium Urate Crystal Deposition (Gout)**

- Cumulative crystal deposition is frequently clinically silent, as CPPD, Hydroxyapatite
- Genetic predisposition 1%–2% of the population.
- Crystal deposition in and around joints, and tendons.
- Serum urate exceeding the physiologic saturation threshold (380 mmol/L)

**Acute gouty arthritis:**

LOWER LOMB joints (85%–90% of cases)

FIRST MTP joint (PODAGRA)

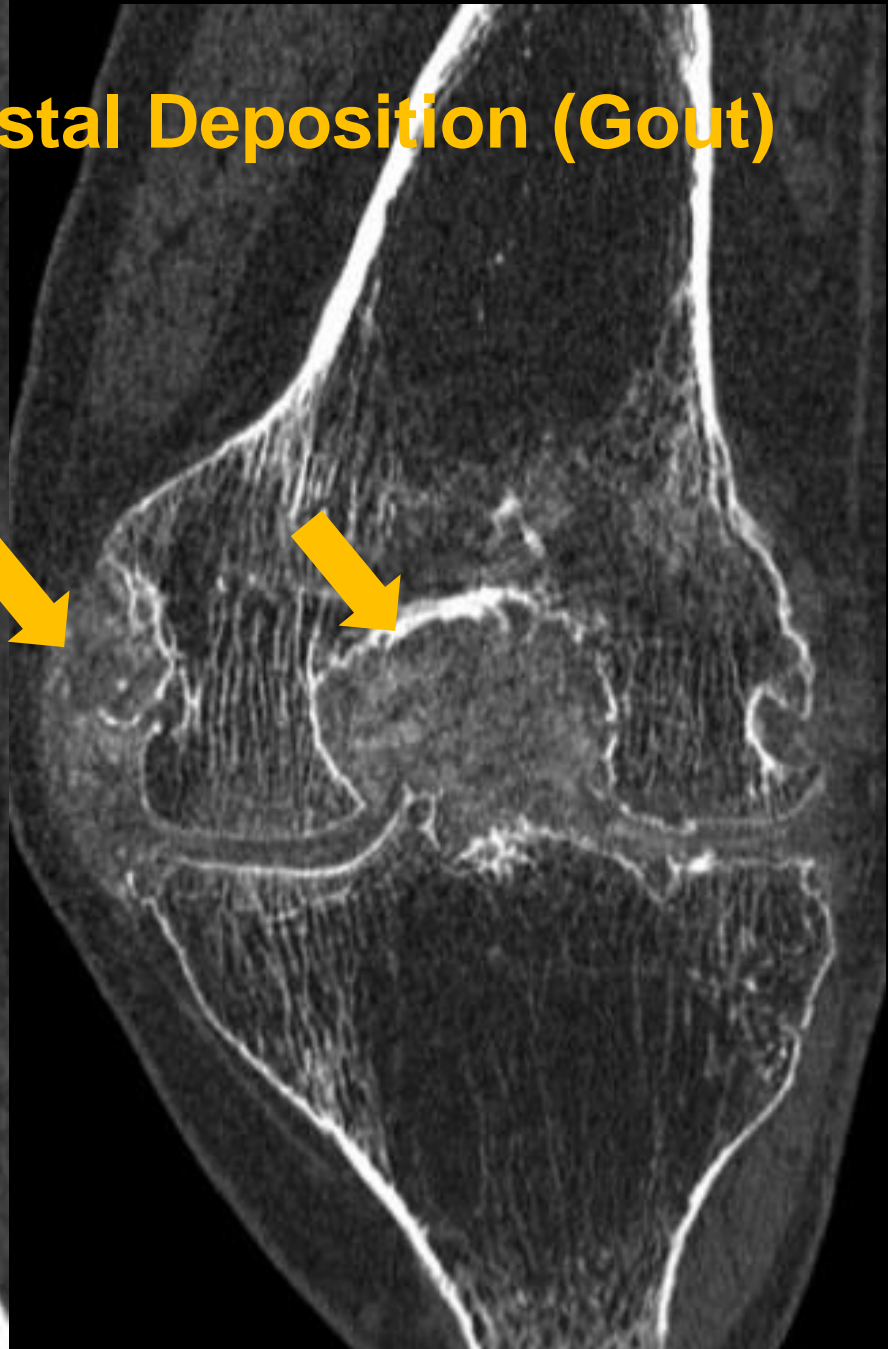
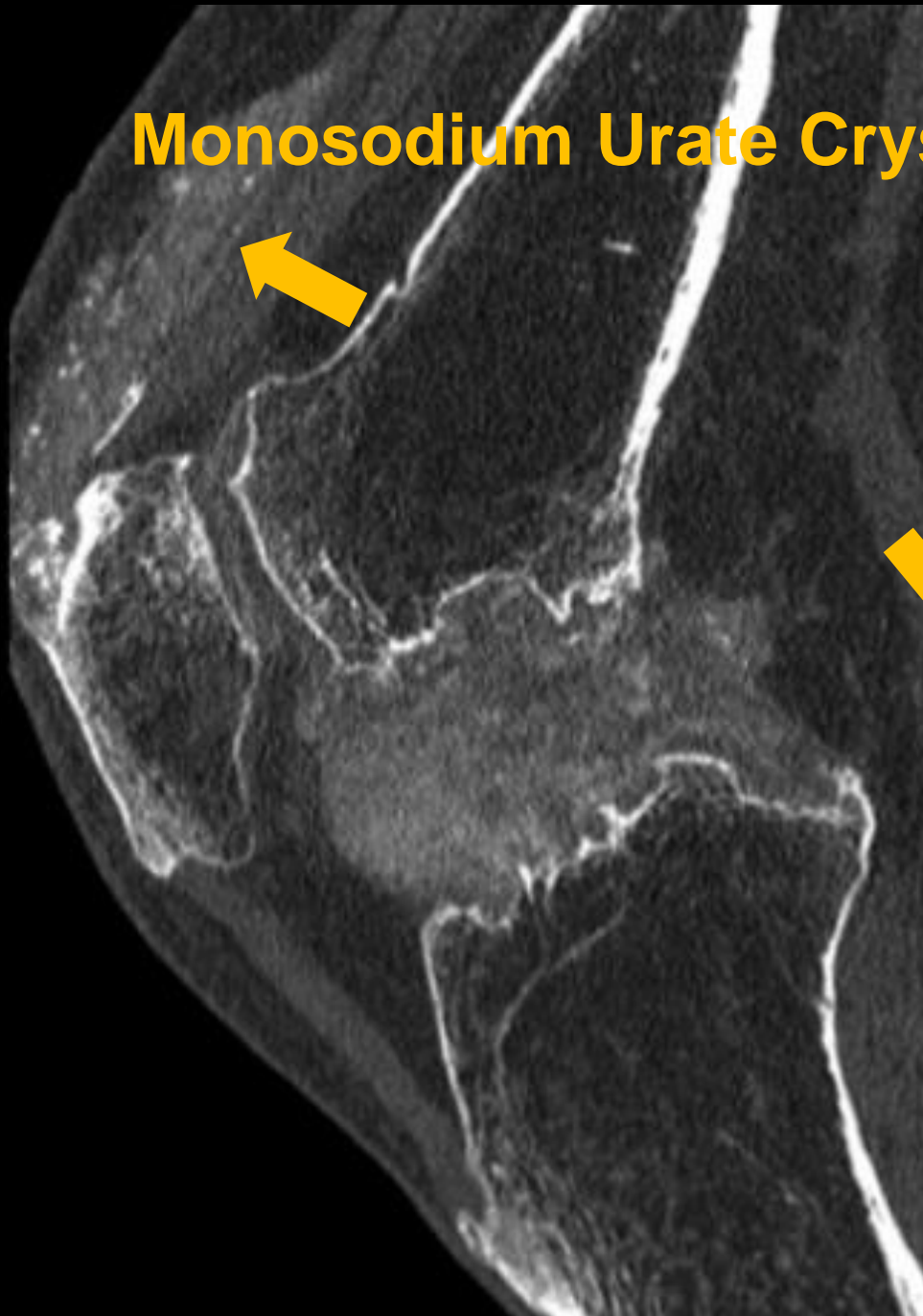


# Gout: Clinical

- The disease has four phases:
  1. Asymptomatic hyperuricemia
  2. Acute
  3. Intercritical
  4. Chronic



# Monosodium Urate Crystal Deposition (Gout)





**Case 9. 69y, M, back pain and radiculopathy.**

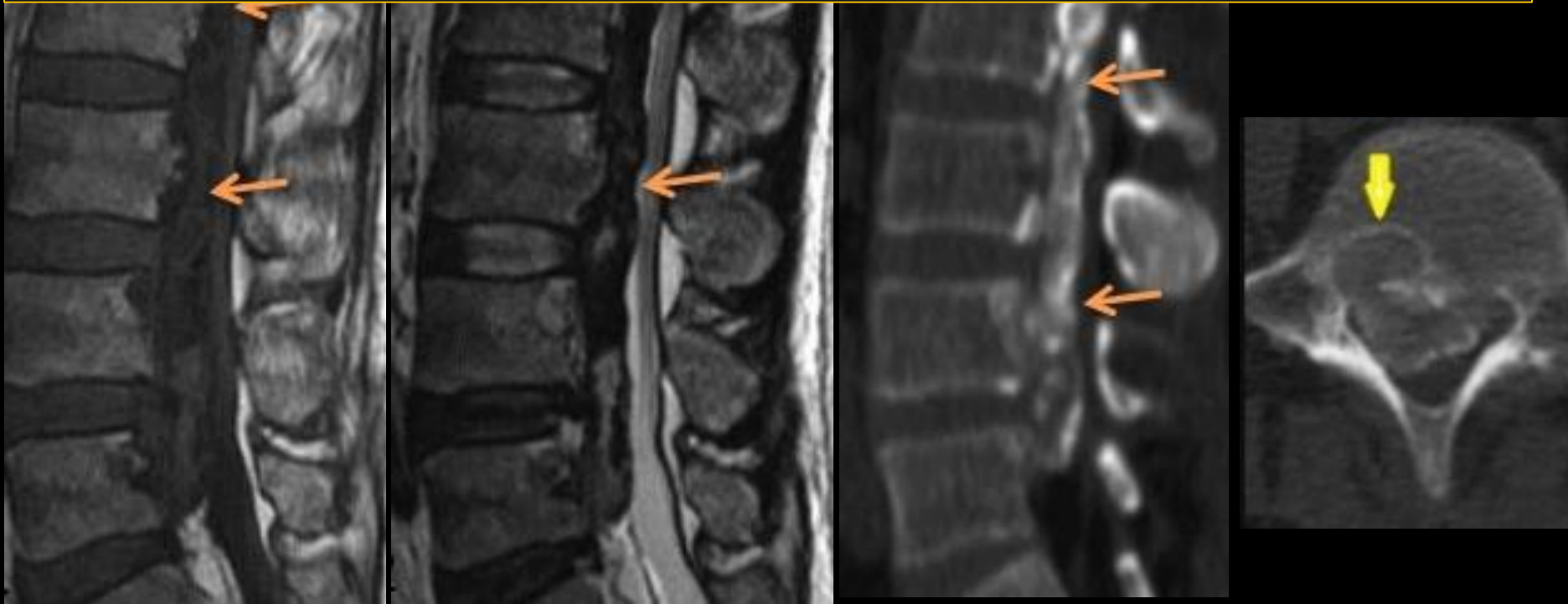


**Rheumatological Protocol: T1, STIR 3 planes, and axial T1 and T2**



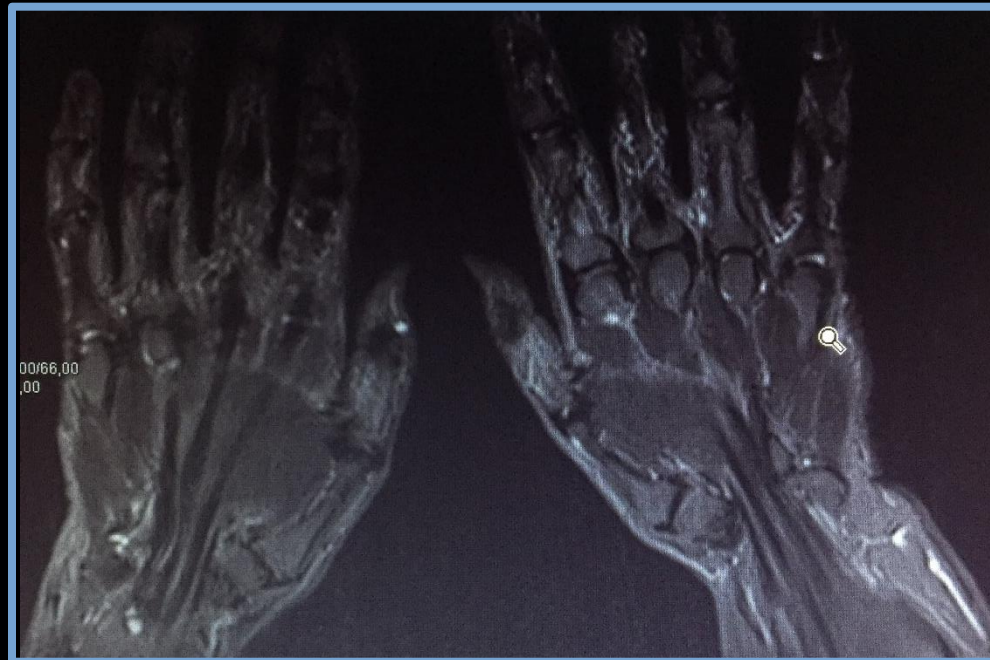
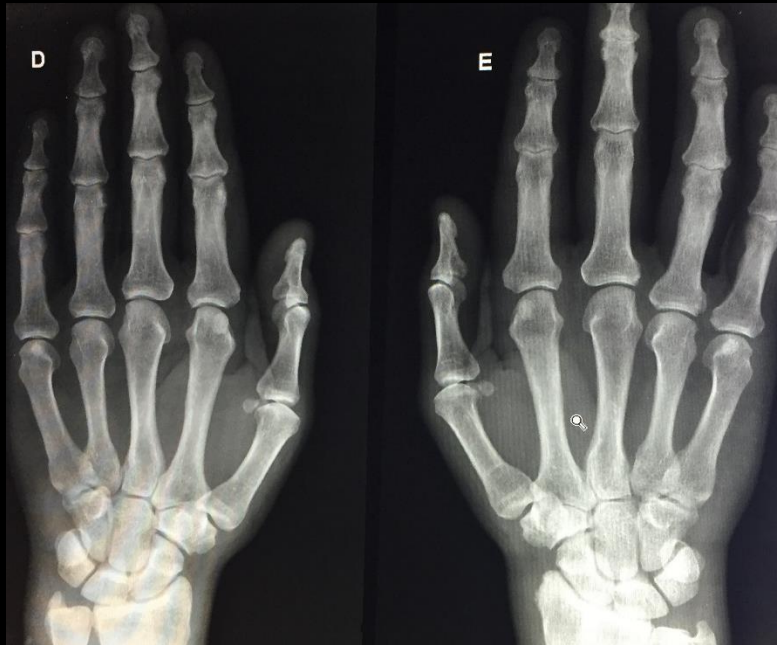
## Case 10. 47y F, *Cauda Equina Syndrome*

- **Hydroxyapatite Crystal Deposition**
- **Ossification of the Posterior Long Lig**
- **``Bone Sand`` in DDDD**
- **Gout**



# Monosodium Urate Crystal Deposition (Gout)

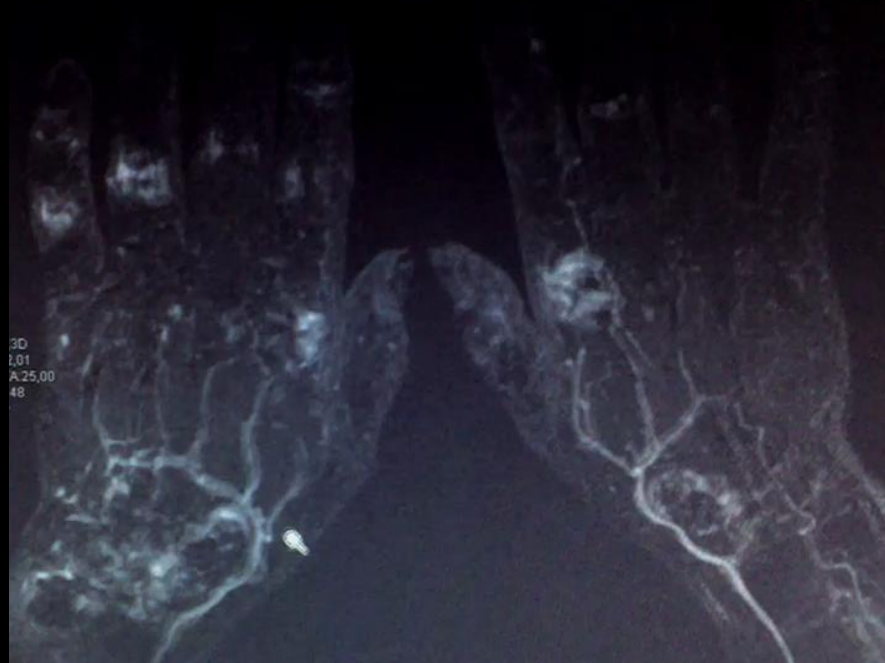
## Early stage diagnosis of Inflammatory Arthropathy



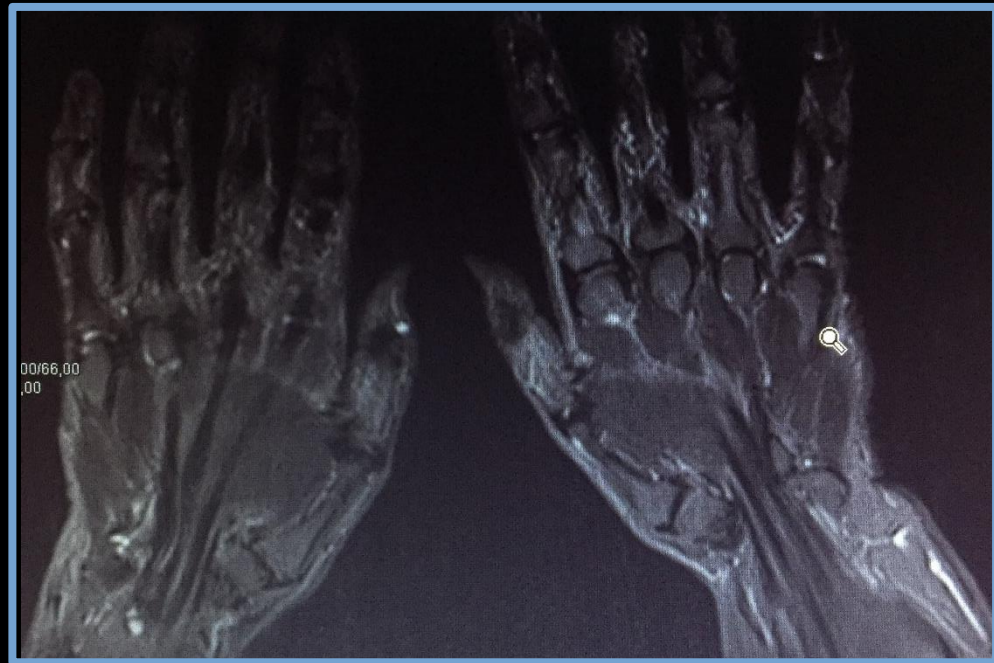
**STIR, MOST SENSITIVE**

# Monosodium Urate Crystal Deposition (Gout)

## Early stage diagnosis of Inflammatory Arthropathy



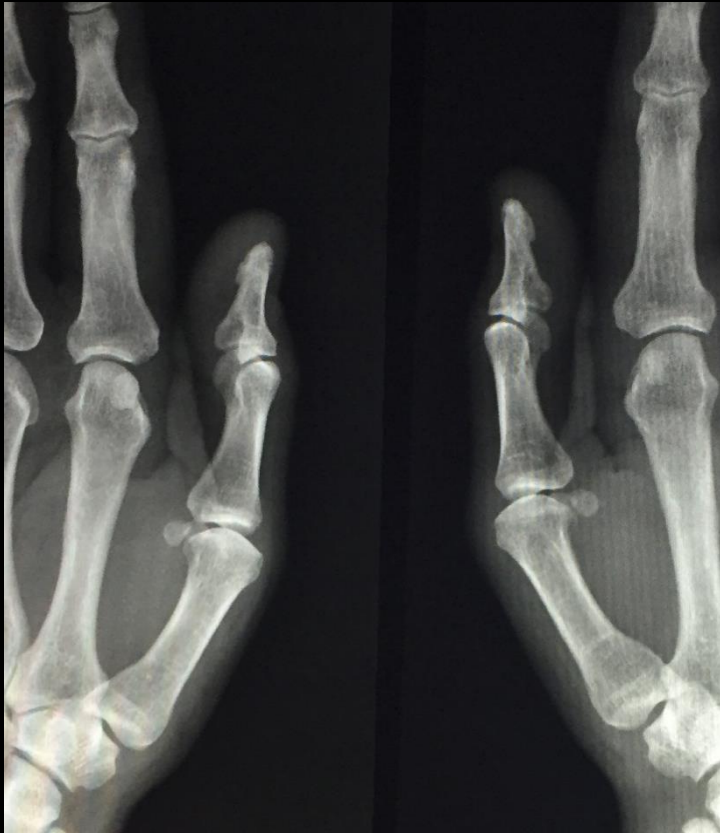
**MR-ANGIO, BETTER**



**STIR, MOST SENSITIVE**

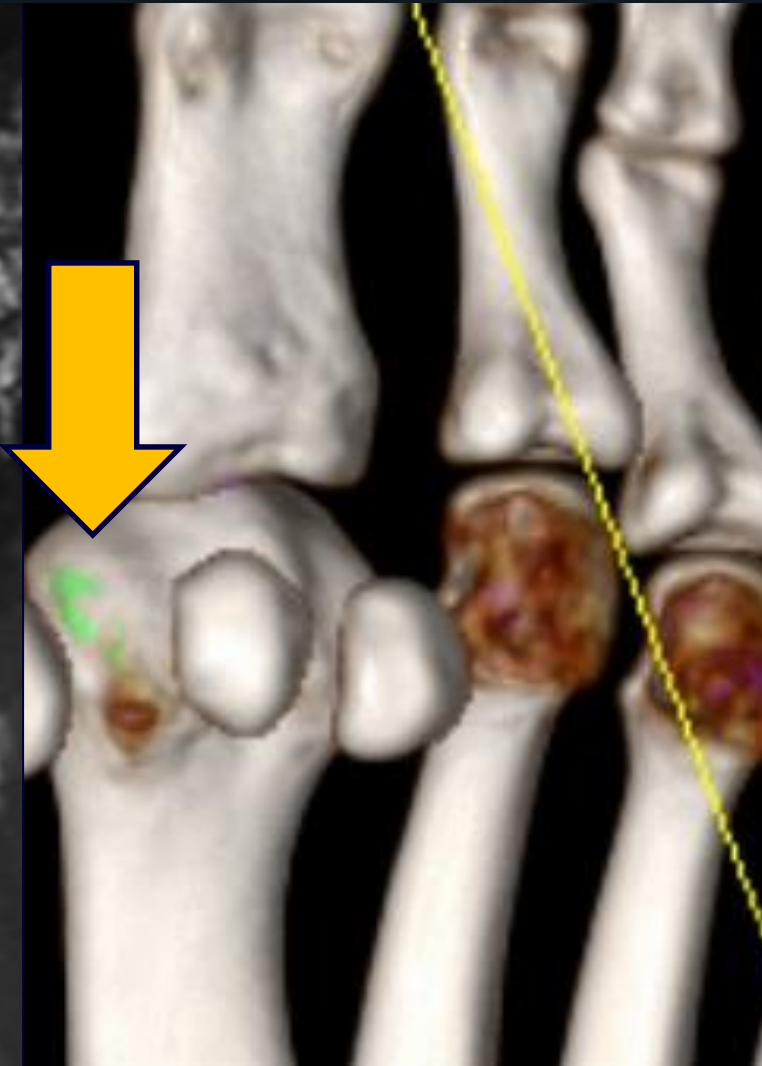
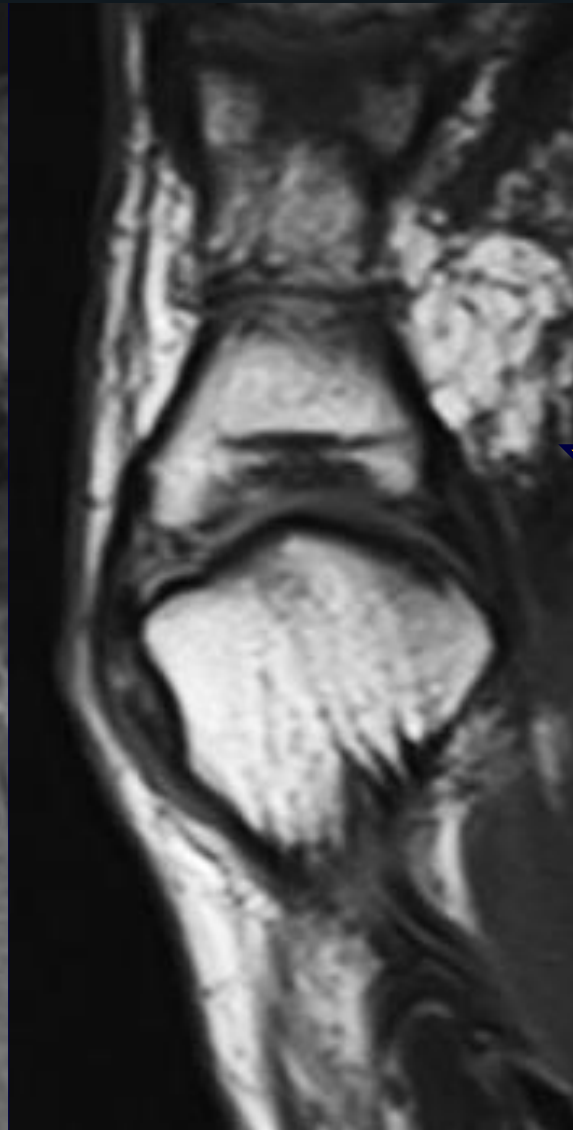


# Early stage diagnosis of Inflammatory Arthropathy



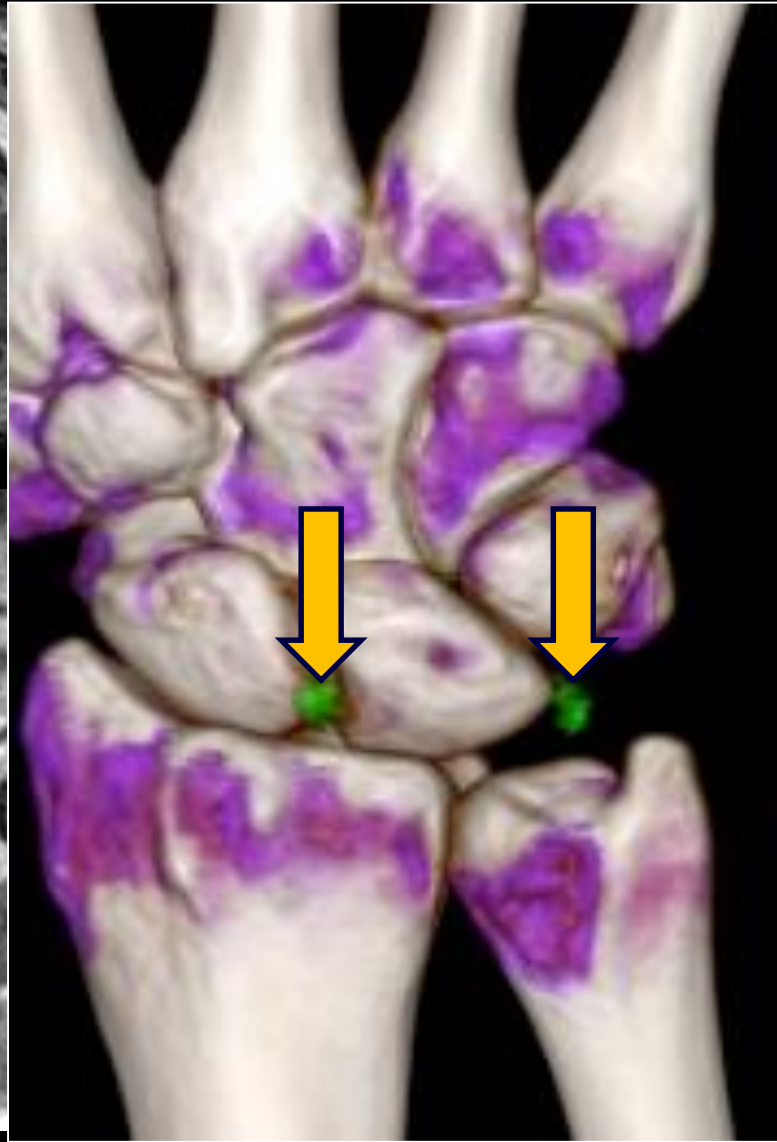
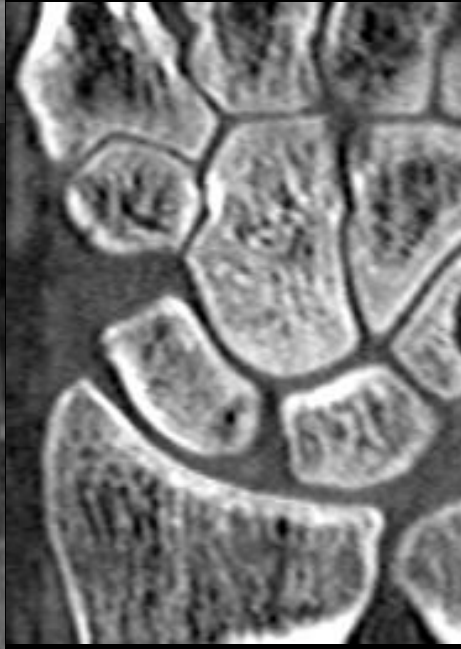
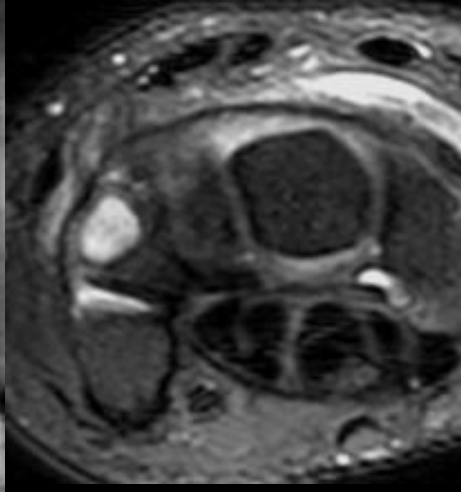
**Inverted MR-ANGIO**

**Case 7. 40, M, Local pain for 15 days.  
No trauma or hiperuricemia.**



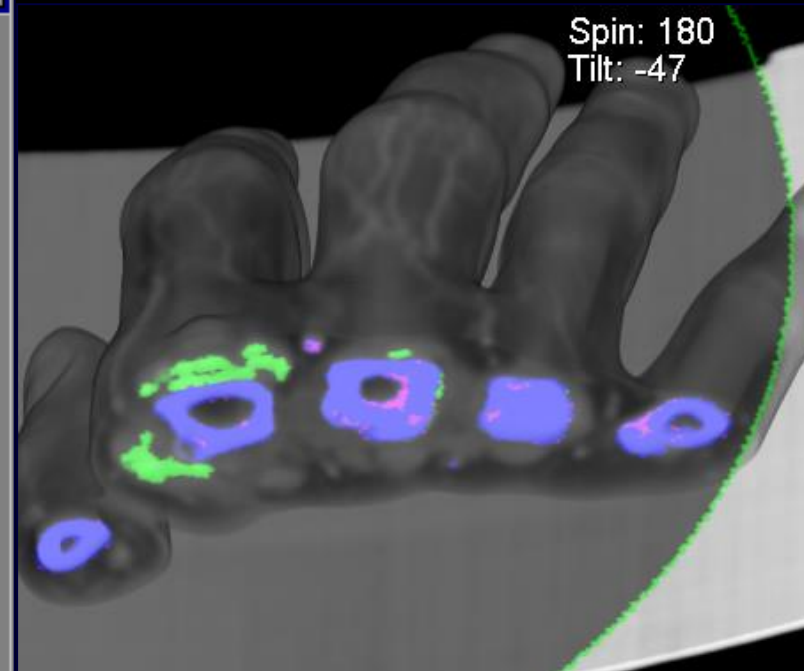
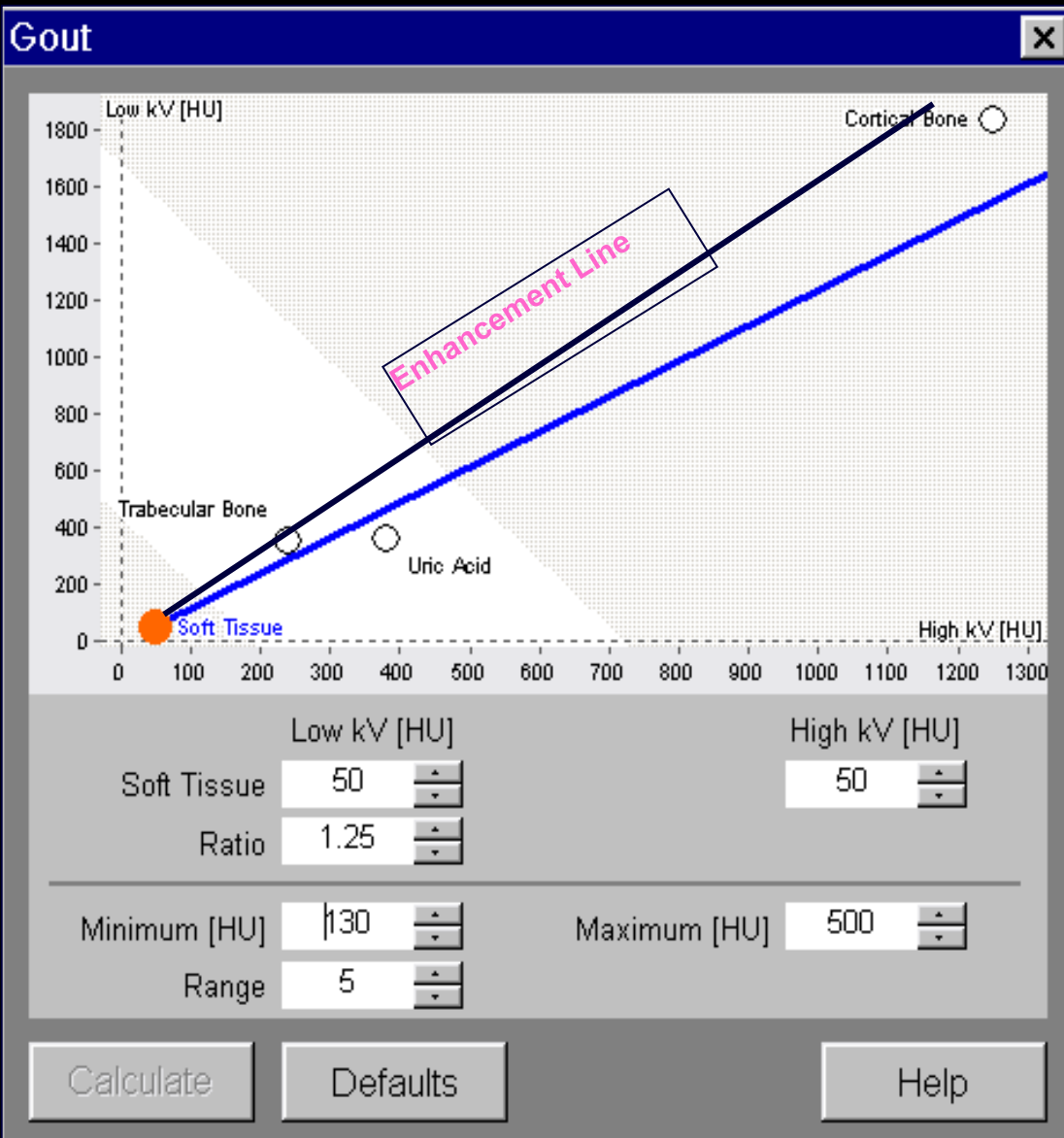
Dual Energy CT

## Case 8. Wrist pain for 24 days. No trauma or hiperuricemia.





# Dual Energy CT in GOUT



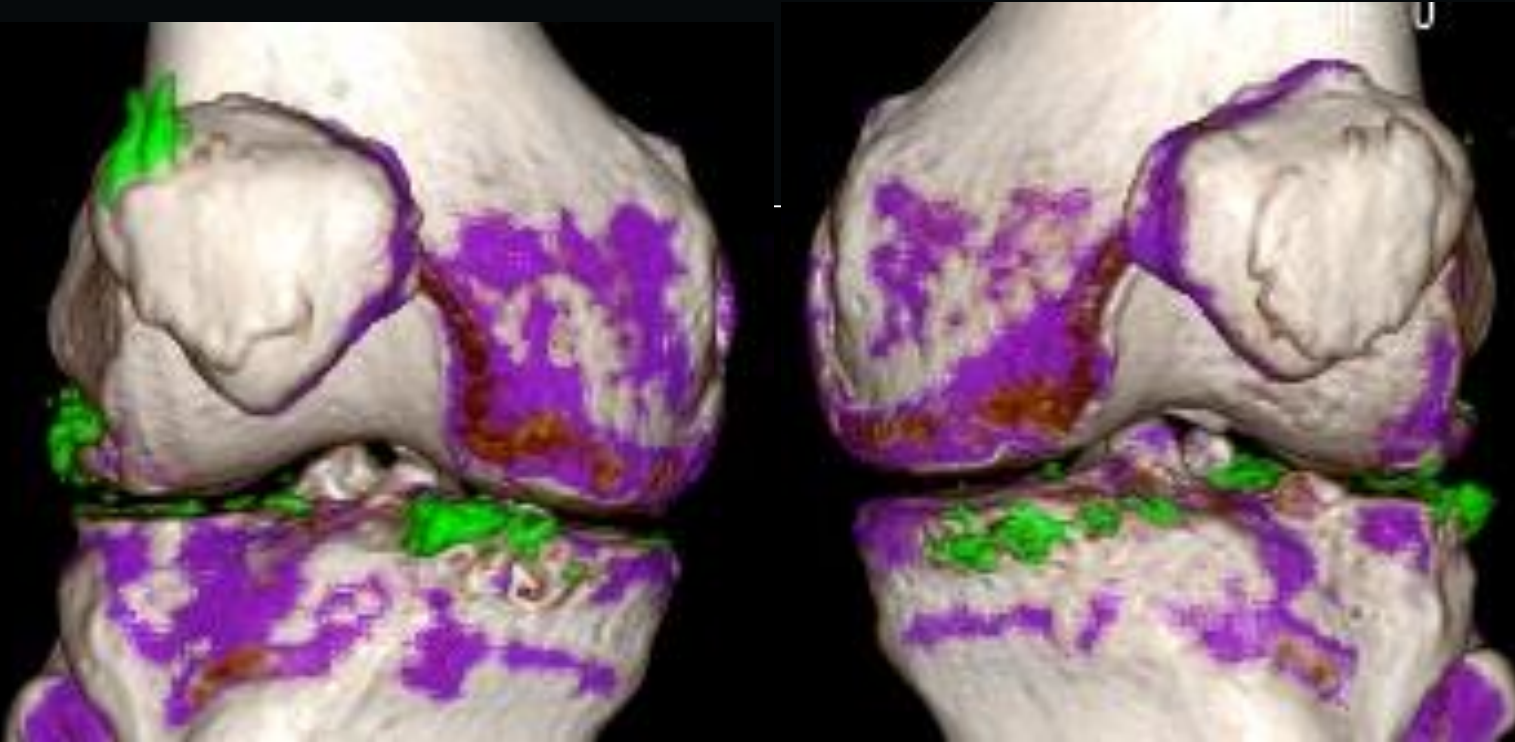
COTICAL BONE

URATE

IODINE

# DUAL ENERGY CT in Gout

- Important Imaging Method for Diagnosis and Follow-up
- Very small Radiation Exposure: 0.5mSv/joint



1. S. Dhanda. Clinical Radiology 2011
2. Savvakis N. AJR 2010
3. Fernando Perez-Ruiz<sup>1</sup> Arthritis Research & Therapy 2009
4. Perez-Ruiz F et al. Adv Ther 2015      Courtesy of Dr Skaf A




# Summary

## Crystals Deposition Diseases

- **CPPD**, **Hydroxyapatite** and **Urate**: *can be silent*
- When activated, various clinical scenarios can be found:
  - Acute/Chronic/Intercritical Inflammatory Arthritis
  - Inflammatory Tendinopathy/Bursitis
  - Back Pain, Compressive Myelopathy

MR imaging is a very useful imaging method for the diagnosis of those diseases, most of the time together with other methods like CT, DE-CT



# Crystal Deposition Diseases

## Thank You



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