

## Introduction

Osteoarthritis is a disease, which occurs commonly in the skeleton and is straightforward to diagnose, on these grounds it has been a disease to which pathologists have given a good attention. It occurs at all periods but some changes in the pattern of osteoarthritis are seen to have taken place over time (**Waldron, 1995**)

Osteoarthritis is the result of both mechanical and biological events that destabilize the normal coupling of degradation and synthesis of articular cartilage and subchondral bone (**Klippel, 1997**).

Risk factors for osteoarthritis, are age, gender, genetic predisposition, mechanical stress, joint trauma, obesity, congenital developmental bone and joint disorders (**Hochberg, 1991**).

Mechanical stress on the cartilage and metabolic and/or hormonal influences have been suggested as possible etiological factors for osteoarthritis (**Sowers et al., 1996**).

Osteoarthritis of the hand and knee are both related to obesity (**Hochberg, et al., 1991**)

The diagnosis of osteoarthritis is usually based on clinical and radiographic features (**Brandt, 1994**).