Osteoarthritis and Rheumatoid Arthritis Compared

Of the many forms of arthritis, two of the most commonly confused forms are rheumatoid and osteoarthritis.

**Osteoarthritis (OA)** is commonly known as "wear and tear arthritis". It is a degenerative joint disease usually associated with aging. In osteoarthritis, the articular cartilage deteriorates and bone spurs form within the joint. This causes pain, stiffness, and the loss of mobility.

**Rheumatoid arthritis** is a chronic autoimmune disease that affects primarily the connective tissues and joints. It causes inflammation of the synovial membrane that progresses to damage of the bone and cartilage, causing pain, stiffness, and loss of mobility.