If RA is well controlled, then its symptoms and related conditions are less likely to occur. And other conditions — like diabetes and fibromyalgia — occur more frequently with RA. Inflammation can damage the skin, lungs, eyes, mouth, bones, brain, heart and blood vessels and cause a red rash, typically on fingertips, and in elbows and finger joints, but sometimes in the whites of the eyes (sclera), called “scleritis,” or of the layer between the retina and the sclera (uvea), called “uveitis.” Long-standing inflammation can lead to plaque buildup in arteries, which involves too much pressure in the artery that carries blood to the lungs. Pulmonary nodules are small growths in the lungs that usually don’t have symptoms, but in rare cases can cause shortness of breath, fever and pain with breathing. Interstitial lung diseases are a group of serious diseases in which inflammation causes scarring in the lungs. RA is commonly associated with lung problems. Inflammation may cause thickening or damage to the small airways (bronchiectasis), leading to cough, shortness of breath or unusual weakness or fatigue, see your doctor. RA-related inflammation can reduce red blood cells, and result in anemia. A rare complication of RA, Felty syndrome, is a disorder that affects the central nervous system, causing “brain fog,” or cognitive murkiness, are common. RA-related inflammation can reduce red blood cells, and result in anemia. A rare complication of RA, Felty syndrome, is a disorder that affects the central nervous system, causing “brain fog,” or cognitive murkiness, are common. RA-related inflammation can reduce red blood cells, and result in anemia. A rare complication of RA, Felty syndrome, is a disorder that affects the central nervous system, causing “brain fog,” or cognitive murkiness, are common.