

The method for the qualitative assay for the degree of progression in osteoarthritis of the knee joints is based on X-ray examination of the joint in the anterior-posterior projection in standing position under the load of the body weight with the knee joint being flexed at the angle of 129°-132°. When the narrowing of the articular cleft is not evident, the grade 0 is diagnosed. The slight local medial or lateral narrowing of the articular cleft is indicative of the grade 1, slight total or pronounced local narrowing is suggestive of grade 2, and pronounced total narrowing is suggestive of grade 3 progression in osteoarthritis of the knee joint. The absence of the osteophytes is indicative of grade 0, the presence of 1-2 small osteophytes is indicative of grade 1, the presence of 3 and more small osteophytes or single large osteophyte is indicative of grade 2, and the presence of two and more large osteophytes is indicative of grade 3 progression in osteoarthritis of the knee joint. The absence of osteosclerosis is indicative of grade 0, the slight local osteosclerosis is indicative of grade 1, the extensive local osteosclerosis or slight generalized osteosclerosis is indicative of grade 2, and the extensive generalized osteosclerosis is indicative of grade 3 progression in osteoarthritis of the knee joint. The absence of osteocystosis is indicative of grade 0, the presence of 1-2 small cysts is indicative of grade 1, the presence of 3 and more small cysts or single large cyst is indicative of grade 2, and the presence of two and more large cysts is indicative of grade 3 progression in osteoarthritis of the knee joint.