Assess for alternative diagnoses:

Routine laboratory evaluation in all patients:
- Complete blood count
- Basic metabolic panel
- Thyroid-stimulating hormone
- Basic chemistry panel

If symptoms or physical examination findings are concerning for inflammatory arthritis (joint swelling, prominent morning stiffness, preferential involvement of the metacarpophalangeal joints), add the following laboratory tests:
- Rheumatoid factor
- Anti–cyclic citrullinated peptide
- Erythrocyte sedimentation rate and C-reactive protein


