

Acromegaly



Frontal hand radiograph shows “spade-like enlargement” of the tufts of the distal phalanges (yellow arrows).

- Acromegaly (excess growth hormone) causes arthropathy due to enlargement of the articular cartilage and subsequent degeneration. In contrast to all other arthropathies, joint spaces are **widened** in early disease due to cartilage hypertrophy. Later in disease, secondary osteoarthritis occurs with cartilage space narrowing.
- In the hand, beak-like osteophytes of the metacarpal heads and spade-like enlargement of the terminal tufts are characteristic.

Acromegaly (Heel Pad Sign)



Acromegaly



mature proliferative bone at the phalangeal tufts and the insertions of the joint capsules. The soft tissues are thickened and the joint spaces are wide. There are no erosions and there is no osteopenia.