

	SLE	RA
Incidence	30-75%	20-50%
X-ray findings	Small Bilateral	Small Unilateral
Clinical findings	Fever, chest pain, tachycardia, dyspnea 5-10% precede joint symptoms	Often asymptomatic (33%) Often associated with Rheumatoid nodules (50%) High RF titers Later in course More common in men
Thoracentesis findings	Exudate	Exudate
Protein	Very high	Very high
LDH	High	Very high
Glucose	Normal	Very low (in longer standing disease)
pH	> 7.3	< 7.3
WBC	Moderately elevated, variable cell differential	High
Immunology	Low complement levels in fluid Low RF High ANA LE cells (PMNs or macrophages that have phagocytized nuclear material of another cell)	Low complements in fluid High RF ( $\geq$ serum RF) RA cells (PMNs with dense black granules)

