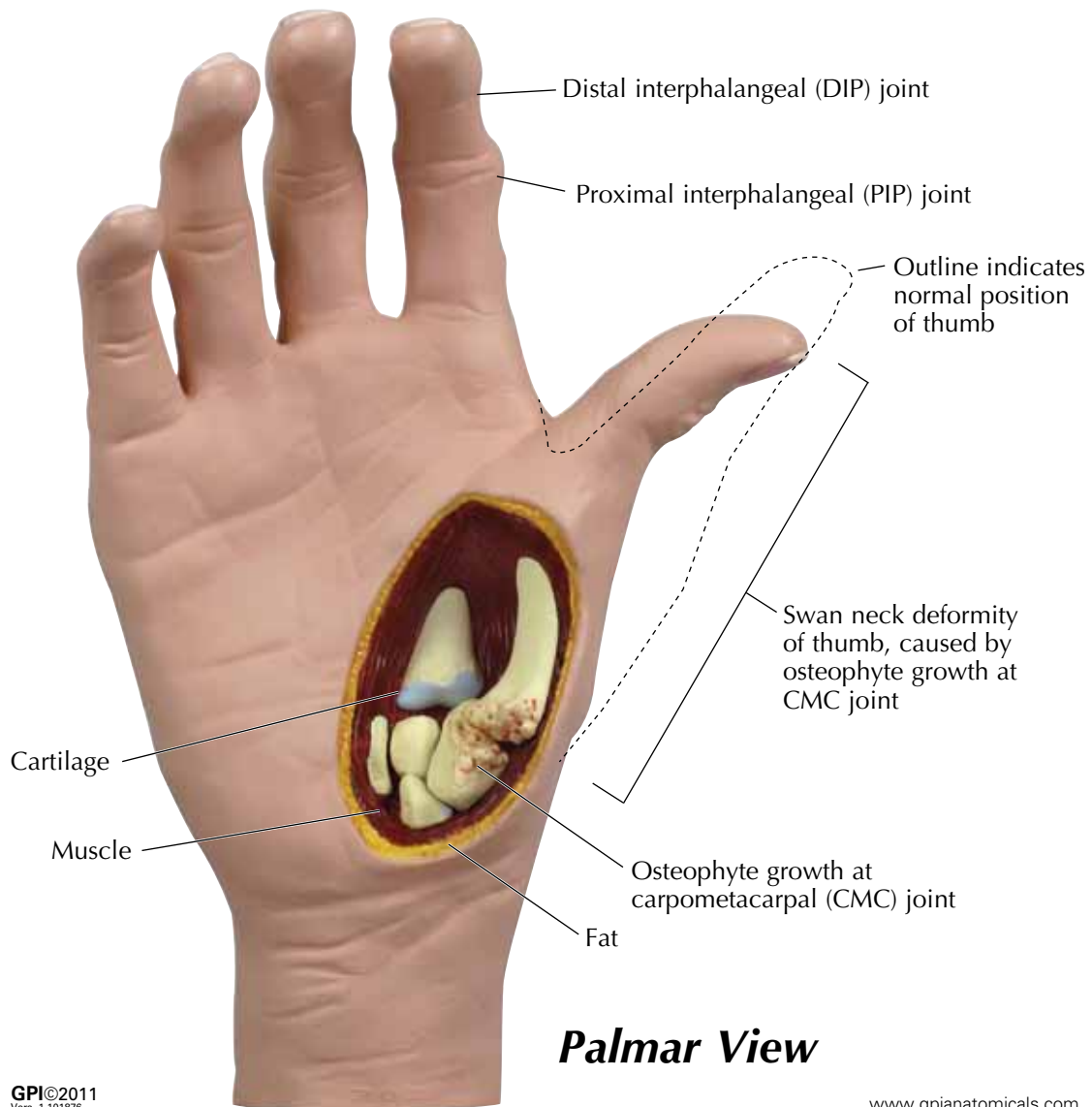


OSTEOARTHRITIC HAND

Osteoarthritis is a degenerative disease with a genetic component that can affect the distal (DIP) and proximal (PIP) joints of the fingers, along with the carpometacarpal joints. Cartilage around the joints wears down from use, and the exposed bone ends rub together. This friction causes osteophytes (bone spurs) to grow at the joint margin to accommodate the joint load. Heberden and Bouchard's nodes (osteophyte growth) form at the DIP and PIP joints respectively. Tendons and ligaments around the joints become loose and can lead to problems such as swan neck deformity, and other observable deformities.



OSTEOARTHRITIC HAND

