



Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis

This material will help you understand how juvenile idiopathic arthritis can affect your child's eyes.

What is juvenile idiopathic arthritis?

Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is a chronic condition that begins in childhood and causes joint inflammation. Your child may have joint pain, redness or swelling. He/she may also have discomfort with physical activity, fevers, and rashes. JIA can also affect your child's eyes.

How can juvenile idiopathic arthritis affect my child's eyes?

JIA can cause inflammation inside the eye called iritis or anterior uveitis. But children with JIA usually have few or no eye symptoms or signs of inflammation. Because of this, they require frequent eye exams. If the condition is left undiagnosed or untreated, it can lead to serious visual complications.

What are the complications of eye inflammation?

Inflammation can cause the following eye problems:

- Glaucoma
- Cataract
- Calcium deposits in the cornea
- Swelling in the retina
- Swelling of the optic nerve

Each of these conditions can lead to vision loss or even blindness. Early treatment of inflammation can prevent these long-term conditions.

How is inflammation treated?

Inflammation in the eyes is usually treated with corticosteroid eye drops. During treatment and after stopping eye drops, it is important to follow up with your child's eye doctor. The doctor will make sure the inflammation responds well to drops and doesn't reoccur.

For more information, scan these codes with your smartphone or visit the websites listed.



<http://www.aapos.org/terms/conditions/63>



<http://www.kidsgetarthritistoo.org/living-with-ja/medical-care/health-effects/arthritis-eye-complications.php>

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Author: Kristin Maurer, BA, MPH candidate
Reviewers: Marina Eisenberg, MD and Gale Oren, MILS

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Last Revised 4/2015