

Systemic Onset Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis

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Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is the most common rheumatic condition among children worldwide. This chronic disease makes children suffer from joint disabilities. According to the International League of Associations for Rheumatology (ILAR), there are seven subtypes of JIA. Each group is different from others in affected joint numbers and associated organ involvement. Among these chronic arthritis, the systemic arthritis or systemic onset juvenile idiopathic arthritis (SoJIA) is the most serious subtype which can cause life threatening illness, particularly macrophage activation syndrome. Children with systemic arthritis usually presents with at least 2 manifestations of daily high fever, 6-week arthritis, salmon-pink rash, hepatosplenomegaly, lymphadenopathy and serositis. In Japan and Thailand, SoJIA is the most common chronic and serious rheumatic disease in children which requires expensive treatments.