

The Patterns of Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis

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Background: Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is one of the most common chronic rheumatological diseases seen in children below 16 years of age.

Objective: To evaluate JIA and its, clinical and laboratory characteristics and treatment.

Design: A Retrospective Study.

Setting: Department of Pediatrics, Abha Maternity and Children Hospital, Saudi Arabia.

Method: All children who presented with symptoms of arthritis and diagnosed with JIA between 1 June 2014 and 30 June 2018 were included in the study.

Result: Seventy-four children suffering from JIA were included in the study. Thirty (40.4%) children had oligoarthritis, followed by 22 (29.7%) children with polyarthritis RF positive and 2 (2.7%) with RF negative. Twelve (16.2%) were undifferentiated Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA). Sixty-four (86.5%) had joint pain, followed by joint swelling in 28 (37.8%). Twenty-five (33.8%) had a fever, 18 (24.3%) had rashes, Fifteen (20.3%) had a joint disability, 12 (16.2%) had fatigue, and nine (12.2%) had sleep disturbance. The laboratory profile was normal among most of the children and the frequency of ANA was positive among 29 (39.2%) children. Pharmacologic therapy started with NSAIDs followed by DMARDs.

Conclusion: The most common type of JIA was oligoarthritis. The treatment with biological agents and pharmacological medications are important for managing the complications of JIA among children.