

Reference Review And Discussion On Orthoses

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May see rheumatoid nodules at areas of pressure points, including elbows

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Description

Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (JRA) is a group of diseases of unknown etiology which manifest as chronic joint inflammation. There is joint pain \(\) swelling with associated spiking fever and evanescent rash.

Etiology

- Unknown
- Felt to be environmentally triggered in a genetically primed host

Epidemiology

- 10-20% of cases of JRA
- Equal distribution boys and girls

Risk Factors

- Genetic predisposition
- Family history of other autoimmune disease, including thyroiditis and diabetes

Clinical Features

- Daily (usually afternoon) or twice daily fever (99–104°F) spike with return to baseline
- Fleeting rash, typically linear, often during fever, on trunk/extremities; 10% puritic
- Arthralgias often worse during the fever; joint swelling is atypical early
- Generalized myalgia
- Possible panserositis; for example, pericarditis, pleuritis
- Other constitutional symptoms including weight loss, nausea, and fatigue
- Adenopathy
- Hepatosplenomegaly
- Evidence of joint inflammation as noted by:
- swelling or effusion
- limitation in range of motion (ROM)
- tenderness or pain with ROM
- warmth
- Present for at least 6 weeks

Diagnosis

Differential diagnosis

- Multiple organ system (systemic) disease with children often looking chronically ill
- Cancer, for example, acute lymphocytic leukemia
- Infection