

A Little About Juvenile Arthritis



A Little About ME!

My name is:

I was born in:

My pet's name is:

I have: (your type of arthritis)

I was diagnosed when I was: (age)



Insert Picture Here

Never Heard of Juvenile Arthritis?

That's **OK!** Most people haven't heard of it. Lots of people think that only **old people** get arthritis, but that's not true!



Juvenile Arthritis Is REAL!

- There are many types of arthritis. Some types affect only kids.
- **IT'S A FACT! 300,000** babies, children and teens have juvenile arthritis!



Imagine...

All of a sudden a joint, like your wrist or your elbow, swells up and starts to **hurt A LOT.**

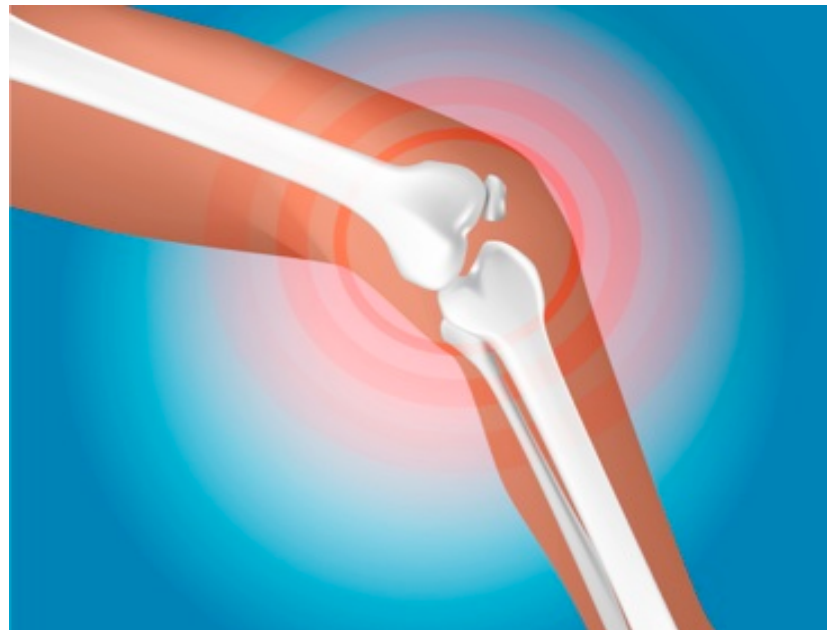
Then your doctor says you have a **chronic disease**, which means **it can't be cured.**

Not all surprises are fun ☹️



What is Arthritis?

- Arthritis is a disease of the joints.
- Joints are where bones meet. They let you **bend and move**.
- In kids, arthritis is an **autoimmune disease**. This means the immune system, which normally protects against germs and viruses, gets confused and attacks the joints instead.
- Examples:
 - Wrist joints
 - Finger joints
 - Knee joints
 - Elbow joints



More than Joints

- All sorts of things can go wrong when you have JA, but it mostly makes your **joints hurt a lot.**
- Some types of JA can also make you **really sick, including:**
 - High fever
 - Skin rash
 - Super tired
 - Loss of vision
 - Harm to heart, lungs and other organs



Why Do Kids Get JA?

- Nobody knows. Scientists are searching for answers.
- They **DO** know it's **NOT** contagious.
- There **ARE** clues. It may have something to do with the genes you are born with and how they interact with your environment, like a germ or virus.
- For the most part, it's still a **MYSTERY!**



Mostly Invisible

- You might see swollen joints, like fingers or knees.
- A lot of times, you can't see that anything is wrong.
- **But the pain is STILL there.**



Pain Comes and Goes

Kids with JA never know what to expect. Some days they might feel bad in the morning, but will feel better later in the day.



Morning



Afternoon

JA and School

At school, sometimes these things can be **difficult**:

- Walking far
- Carrying books
- Holding a pencil
- Writing
- Doing exercises in P.E.
- Playing at recess



Every Kid Is Different

Some kids are taller than others, some kids wear glasses and some have a disease like arthritis.

Kids who have JA may have painful joints, have to go to the doctor a lot and get tired easily, **BUT...** They are just like any other kid.

Arthritis is only ONE thing about them!



Let's Find a CURE!

You can **HELP** families and kids like me with arthritis.

Please join my team and help me raise money to find a cure!

- My team name is:
- Sign up at: (paste hyperlink to team page)

We have to fight for a cure so one day kids won't have to feel this pain!



Thanks for Listening 😊
Questions?

