

## **Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis diagnostic delay , treatment and remission rate in a single center in Abu Dhabi**

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### **Introduction**

Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis is a chronic inflammatory disease that affects 1 in 1000 children worldwide. Our population in the United Arab Emirates is diverse. The total population just over 9,000,000. The population of Abu Dhabi is 2.3 million.

### **Methods:**

Patients with the diagnosis of JIA identified through the hospital electronic medical records system. Retrospective case notes review of patients electronic medical records with the diagnosis of JIA was performed from 2011 to June 2021.

### **Results:**

138 patients in total. 66 Oligoarticular JIA (48%). 9 extended Oligoarticular JIA (7%). 35 patients Polyarticular (25%). Systemic JIA 7 patients (5%). Enthesitis related arthritis 10 patients (7%). Psoriatic arthritis 8 patients (6%). Other 3 patients (2%).

Mean diagnostic delay for enthesitis related arthritis was 11.4 months followed by undifferentiated with a mean of 7.5 months then oligoarticular JIA with delay of 3.2 months. For Polyarticular JIA 4 months. Systemic JIA was always diagnosed within three months of presentation.

131 (96%) out of 138 received steroid treatment. All Oligoarticular JIA received joint injections with triamcinolone hexa acetone.

78 patients out of the total 138 required biologics (57%). In remission on treatment 51 patients which is (37%) of the total number of patients with follow up ranging from 1 year to 5 years. In remission off treatment 42 patients (30%).

### **Conclusion:**

We have a diverse population in Abu Dhabi. Access to care continues to be a challenge. The most diagnostic delay is in enthesitis related arthritis subtype with a mean of 11.4 months. Our subtype distribution similar to other literature from Canada and England with Oligoarticular being most represented with 75 patients (55%) followed by Rheumatoid factor negative polyarticular JIA. Access to biologics was granted to 57% of our patients. 37% in remission on treatment and 30% in remission off treatment.