

Soundbite transcript - Kids Get Arthritis, Too

Dr. Nuha Shair, Pediatrician, OSF HealthCare

“Unfortunately, there is no cure for juvenile idiopathic arthritis. It is an autoimmune condition and it’s a chronic disease. However, with early aggressive treatment the disease can be put into remission. There are ways to control the progression and the symptoms of the disease so that you can go into remission.”

Dr. Nuha Shair, Pediatrician, OSF HealthCare

“One of the most common symptoms for juvenile idiopathic arthritis is joint pain, redness or swelling. You have children that the parents are concerned about the way they walk, they’re not moving their joints the way they should be. Some kids have spiking fevers once or twice a day around the same time, some kids can present with different rashes, some kids have what look like psoriatic lesions on their skin, and some kids will come in with weight loss, decreased energy.”

Dr. Nuha Shair, Pediatrician, OSF HealthCare

“Management depends on the severity and the type of the juvenile idiopathic arthritis. There are different types and the types are broken down based on symptoms and physical findings. So based on the type of disease that you have, that plays a big factor into management.”

Dr. Nuha Shair, Pediatrician, OSF HealthCare

“If you suspect if your child is showing any signs of joint pain, joint swelling, joint stiffness or anything like that, get it checked out. JIA is something that if caught early, if treated early, can have a very good prognosis. Staying positive is very important, staying active, eating healthy, are important takeaway messages.”