Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA)

What is Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis?
Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is a chronic autoimmune disease that affects kids and teens under the age of 16. JIA is progressive and, if left untreated, may severely affect a child’s quality of life by inhibiting their ability to perform everyday tasks.

What causes JIA?
JIA is a disease of the immune system, which works to protect the body against threats like bacteria or viruses. But when the immune system is not working correctly – such as with JIA – it can mistakenly attack healthy cells and tissues.

Prevalence
JIA is the most common pediatric chronic rheumatic disease.

Affects nearly 300,000 children in the U.S. alone.

Affects girls 2-4x more often than boys.

Treatment
Early diagnosis and regular visits with an experienced pediatric rheumatology team can help manage the complex needs of the child and family.

There are treatment options available that may help with symptoms and prevent further joint damage, including:

- Physical and occupational therapy
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
- Steroid injections into joints

For moderate-to-severe cases of JIA, patients may respond to:

- Oral steroids
- Disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs), anti-inflammatory medicines
- Biologic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (bDMARDs) which are believed to interrupt the effects of substances made naturally by the immune system and improve physical function

JIA strikes at a time when kids want to be kids.

Managing the physical effects of JIA is important, but finding time for regular doctor’s visits can be a struggle for some families. Talk to your doctor about treatment options that are available at home.

Bristol Myers-Squibb is committed to identifying and pursuing new treatment options and innovative development approaches to help deliver transformational medicines for patients with juvenile idiopathic arthritis and other immune-mediated diseases.