

and ankylosis of joints may occur if the inflammatory process persists.

Clinical Manifestations

Whether single or multiple joints are involved, swelling and loss of motion develop in the affected joint. The swollen joint may be slightly warm and mildly tender to touch, but it is not uncommon for pain not to be reported despite a large joint effusion. Loss of motion in the joint from joint inflammation and muscle spasm may be exacerbated by inactivity. Morning stiffness of the joint(s) is characteristic of JIA and may be present on arising or inactivity. Functional change may be an obvious limp or subtle limitations in joint motion, such as fisting to avoid wrist extension with pressure. Growth disturbances (either overgrowth or undergrowth) may occur, such as bony enlargement of the adjacent femoral or tibial condyles with a knee effusion or a receding chin from temporomandibular arthritis.

Classification of Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis

JIA is not a single disease but a heterogeneous group of diseases. The universal Durban classification of JIA, developed in 1997 and revised in 1998 and 2001, lists several disease categories, each with its own set of criteria and exclusions, which continue to be revised ([Petty, Southwood, Manners, et al, 2004](#)).

- Systemic arthritis is arthritis in one or more joints associated with at least 2 weeks of quotidian fever and daily for at least 3 days and one or more of the following: rash, lymphadenopathy, hepatosplenomegaly, and serositis. **Exclusions: a, b, c, d*
- Oligoarthritis is arthritis in one to four joints for the first 6 months of disease. It is subdivided to persistent oligoarthritis if it remains in four joints or fewer or becomes extended oligoarthritis if it involves more than four joints after 6 months. **Exclusions: a, b, c, d, e*
- Polyarthritis rheumatoid factor (RF) negative affects five or more joints in the first 6 months with a negative RF. **Exclusions: a, b, c, e*
- Polyarthritis RF positive also affects five or more joints in first 6 months, but these children have a positive RF. **Exclusions: a, b, c, e*