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Joint pain or muscle pain in children: Symptom Checker

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**Title**

Joint pain or muscle pain

**Feature Title**

Joint pain or muscle pain

**List Title**

Joint pain or muscle pain

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**MCV Other tag(s)**

Content Packages > Symptom checker mobile > Child > General

**MCV Related tag(s)**

**Primary Location**

Symptom Checker

**Tease**

Joint pain and muscle pain is fairly common and often due to active lifestyles. Identify other possible causes based on your child's symptoms.

**Abstract**

Find possible causes of joint pain or muscle pain in children. See our Symptom Checker.

**Benefit Summary**

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**FeatureID**

**Gender**

**Age**

Child

**ENTER IN FARCRY:**

**When to get medical help**

Consult your child's doctor if your child has joint pain or muscle pain that is persistent or is accompanied by:

Limping or impaired activity

Persistent decreased energy or fatigue

Swollen lymph nodes in the neck, groin or underarms

Swelling or stiffness

Persistent fever or fever with no clear cause

Rash

Abdominal pain

Unexplained weight loss

**Self-care strategies** (1, p. 200)

If your child is experiencing pain from a sprain or fall, you may provide some relief with the following self-care strategies:

**Protect.** Protect the area from further injury.

**Rest.** Avoid activities that hurt.

**Ice.** Reduce pain and inflammation with an ice pack.

**Compress.** Reduce swelling with an elastic bandage.

**Elevate.** Elevate the affected limb while your child rests.

You may temporarily lessen pain with an over-the-counter children's pain reliever, such as ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin, others) or acetaminophen (Tylenol, others) — but not aspirin. Use only as directed on the label, and do not give your child combinations of pain relievers.

**More Information**

Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis DS00018

**END OF FARCRY TEXT**

Find possible causes of joint pain or muscle pain based on specific factors. Check one or more factors on this page that apply to your child's symptom.

**Problem is**

Bone pain

Joint pain

Muscle aches, cramps or pain

**Location of pain**

Is limited to a specific area

Is throughout the whole body

Migrates from one site to another

**Onset is**

Gradual

Intermittent or episodic

Sudden

**Preceded by**

Recent sore throat

Tick bite or possible exposure to ticks

**Occurs**

At night

In late afternoon or early evening

In the morning or after a nap

**Triggered or worsened by**

Activity or overuse

Injury

**Accompanied by**

Abdominal pain

Bloody stools

Chest pain

Concentration or memory problems

Easy bruising or bleeding

Emotional outbursts or unusual behaviors

Eye discomfort

Fever

Fever with no apparent cause

Headache

Jerky, uncontrollable body movements

Joint stiffness

Loss of appetite

Nausea or vomiting

Persistent decreased energy or fatigue

Rash

Shortness of breath

Skin redness or warmth near affected area

Small lumps under the skin

Swelling or tenderness near affected area

Swollen lymph nodes in neck, groin or underarms

Tiny red spots on skin

Weight loss

**Possible causes**

These diseases and conditions match at least one of the factors you selected. Those with the most matches are listed first.

DS00520 Bone cancer (2, p. 158; 3)

Problem is bone pain

Location of pain is limited to a specific area

Onset is gradual

Accompanied by persistent decreased energy or fatigue

Accompanied by swelling or tenderness near affected area

Accompanied by weight loss

DS00888 Growing pains (4)

Problem is muscle aches, cramps or pain

Location of pain is limited to a specific area

Location of pain is throughout the whole body

Onset is intermittent or episodic

Onset is sudden

Occurs at night

Occurs in late afternoon or early evening

DS00838 Henoch-Schonlein purpura (2, p. 104; 5)

Problem is joint pain

Location of pain is throughout the whole body

Accompanied by abdominal pain

Accompanied by bloody stools

Accompanied by joint stiffness

Accompanied by nausea or vomiting

Accompanied by rash

Accompanied by swelling or tenderness near affected area

DS00018 Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (2, p. 297; 6, p. 296; 7)

Problem is joint pain

Location of pain is throughout the whole body

Onset is intermittent or episodic

Occurs in the morning or after a nap

Accompanied by fever with no apparent cause

Accompanied by joint stiffness

Accompanied by rash

Accompanied by swelling or tenderness near affected area

DS00351 Leukemia (2, p. 149; 6, p. 296; 8)

Problem is bone pain

Problem is joint pain

Location of pain is limited to a specific area

Location of pain is throughout the whole body

Onset is gradual

Accompanied by easy bruising or bleeding

Accompanied by fever with no apparent cause

Accompanied by loss of appetite

Accompanied by persistent decreased energy or fatigue

Accompanied by swollen lymph nodes in neck, groin or underarms

Accompanied by tiny red spots on skin

Accompanied by weight loss

DS00115 Lupus (2, p. 300; 6, p. 299; 9)

Problem is joint pain

Location of pain is limited to a specific area

Location of pain is throughout the whole body

Onset is gradual

Onset is intermittent or episodic

Accompanied by eye discomfort

Accompanied by fever

Accompanied by joint stiffness

Accompanied by persistent decreased energy or fatigue

Accompanied by rash

Accompanied by swelling or tenderness near affected area

DS00116 Lyme disease (2, p. 438; 10)

Problem is joint pain

Problem is muscle aches, cramps or pain

Location of pain is throughout the whole body

Location of pain migrates from one site to another

Preceded by tick bite or possible exposure to ticks

Accompanied by concentration or memory problems

Accompanied by fever

Accompanied by headache

Accompanied by rash

DS00759 Osteomyelitis (2, p. 321; 11)

Problem is bone pain

Location of pain is limited to a specific area

Accompanied by fever

Accompanied by persistent decreased energy or fatigue

Accompanied by skin redness or warmth near affected area

Accompanied by swelling or tenderness near affected area

DS00250 Rheumatic fever (2, p. 37; 12)

Problem is joint pain

Location of pain is throughout the whole body

Location of pain migrates from one site to another

Preceded by recent sore throat

Accompanied by chest pain

Accompanied by emotional outbursts or unusual behaviors

Accompanied by fever

Accompanied by jerky, uncontrollable body movements

Accompanied by rash

Accompanied by shortness of breath

Accompanied by skin redness or warmth near affected area

Accompanied by small lumps under the skin

Accompanied by swelling or tenderness near affected area

DS00545 Septic arthritis (13)

Problem is joint pain

Location of pain is limited to a specific area

Accompanied by fever

Accompanied by skin redness or warmth near affected area

Accompanied by swelling or tenderness near affected area

DS00343 Sprains and strains (14)

Problem is joint pain

Location of pain is limited to a specific area

Onset is sudden

Triggered or worsened by injury

Accompanied by skin redness or warmth near affected area

DS00153 Tendinitis (15)

Problem is joint pain

Location of pain is limited to a specific area

Triggered or worsened by activity or overuse

Triggered or worsened by injury

Accompanied by swelling or tenderness near affected area

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