



JIA uveitis screening

For families, pediatricians and eye clinics caring for children with juvenile idiopathic arthritis

RheumReferral

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Uveitis linked to JIA is usually painless and silent. It can cause scarring inside the eye, cataract, glaucoma and permanent vision loss before anyone notices a problem. Regular slit-lamp examinations find it early, when treatment works best.

Highest risk: screen every 3 months

Children with oligoarticular, RF-negative polyarticular, psoriatic or undifferentiated JIA who are **ANA-positive**, were **younger than 7** when JIA began, and have had JIA for **4 years or less**.

ACR/Arthritis Foundation 2019 uveitis guideline; screening every 3 months for high-risk children was reaffirmed in the ACR 2026 JIA guidelines.

Other children with JIA

Still need regular screening, usually less often. The eye doctor and rheumatologist set the interval using the ACR 2019 schedule, based on JIA type, ANA, age at onset and how long the child has had JIA.

When uveitis has been found

- Controlled on stable treatment: eye checks at least every 3 months (ACR 2026)
- Within 1 month of any change in steroid eye drops, and within 2 months of a change in DMARD or biologic treatment (ACR 2026)
- Short-term steroid eye drops (prednisolone acetate 1%) are preferred over oral steroids. If drops are still needed, methotrexate is the preferred first DMARD and adalimumab the preferred biologic.
- Treatment is usually tapered only after at least 2 years of good control, starting with the eye drops.

Get an eye check within days if your child has

A red or painful eye, sensitivity to light, blurred or changed vision, or a new squint. Children with enthesitis-related arthritis can get a sudden painful red eye, which needs same-day eye care.

Eye screening record

DATE	EYE CLINIC OR DOCTOR	RESULT (RIGHT / LEFT)	TREATMENT CHANGES	NEXT EXAM DUE

Sources

1. ACR/AF 2019 JIA-associated uveitis guideline.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/acr.23871>

2. 2026 JIA guideline summary (PDF).
<https://assets.contentstack.io/v3/assets/bltee37abb6b278ab2c/blt4e307b8933591fa5/jia-guidelines-summary-2026.pdf>

3. ACR 2026 JIA guidelines. <https://rheumatology.org/juvenile-idiopathic-arthritis-guideline>