

## PAIN IN CHILDREN WITH JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS (JIA)

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Pain in children is a poorly researched and insufficiently treated symptom, resulting in the fact that up to today no common ground has been found to aid in the stance towards pain in children.

The aim of our study was to establish the connection between pain and depression, as well as pain and anxiety in children with JIA.

The study subjects comprised 36 children with JIA (median age 13,3 yrs), 22 female and 14 male, who all fulfilled the ILAR criteria for JIA. Control group consisted of 35 health children (median 12,8 yrs), 20 female and 15 male.

The pain was measured with visual analogue scale (VAS). For the measurement of depression and anxiety we used subscales used in Trauma symptom checklist for children (TSCC).

The average selfperception of pain on the VAS scale was 29,47 mm (SD: 19,76, range 0-70 mm), The average selfperception of pain in girls was 31,77 mm and in boys 25,85, which is not statistically significant. In children with JIA, the multiple regression analysis for pain predictor showed a statistically significant connection between pain and depression ( $p=0,003$ ) as well as between pain and anxiety ( $p=0,039$ ).

We can conclude that psychological testing can help professionals who work with chronic patients, especially with children who suffer severe pain. In this study we proved that children with JIA, who suffer severe pain are more depressed and have higher degree of anxiety, because that the treatment is a very complex, and require constant co-operation of paediatricians and psychiatrist.

