



Resource

JIA Diagnosis

JIA can be difficult to diagnose. Think of it as pieces of a puzzle, that healthcare professionals will help parents and children to put together. There are a number of different investigations used in diagnoses, including blood tests and scans, along with a discussion about symptoms.

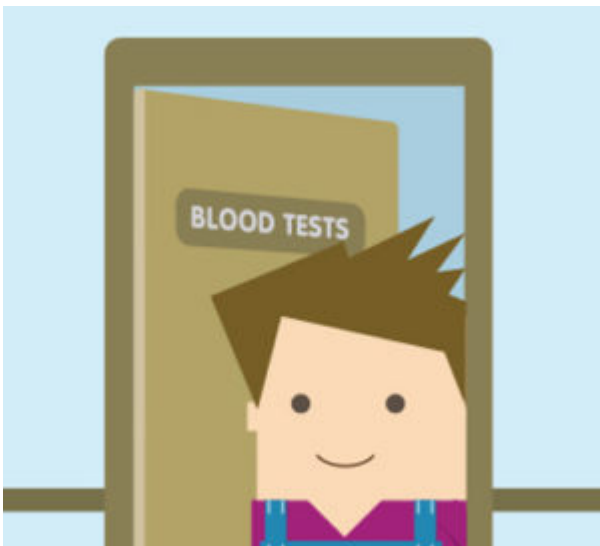
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Clinical Assessment

Making a diagnosis depends on asking you detailed questions about your child, performing tests such as blood tests and scans and carrying out a thorough physical examination.



[Article](#)

[Blood Testing](#)

[Blood tests alone will not diagnose JIA, but they are an important part of diagnosis. A number of blood tests can show either signs of JIA or clues to other potential causes for your child's symptoms.](#)



[Article](#)

[Slit lamp examination of the eyes](#)

[Slit lamps are used to help an ophthalmologist to examine the eye. Any child with suspected JIA will have their eyes examined to screen for a condition called 'uveitis' which can occur in JIA, often without symptoms.](#)



[Article](#)

Imaging scans

There are a number of different types of scan that can be used to look at the joints and (in some cases) soft tissue areas in the body.



[Article](#)

Examination of the joint fluid

If there is a possibility that your child has an acute bacterial infection in a joint they will need to be admitted to hospital and have a sample of fluid taken from the joint. This usually happens under a general anaesthetic and the joint is 'washed out' at the same time.

Further reading

[Detailed descriptions of investigations](#)

A description of all these investigations can be found in greater detail on NHS Choices.

[MRI Scan](#)

Example MRI scan details can be found here.

[Blood results](#)

Further information about the different types of blood results and what they mean.