

# Kinship Corner

---

## July is Juvenile Arthritis Month

Arthritis is often thought of as an older person's disease, but almost 300,000 kids in the United States have a similar disease called "juvenile arthritis." Juvenile arthritis is a term used to describe the many autoimmune and inflammatory conditions that can develop in children ages 16 and younger. Juvenile arthritis causes the immune system to attack the body which causes inflammation.

The most common type of (JA) is Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis. The word idiopathic means that the cause of this disease is unknown.

Symptoms of juvenile arthritis include swelling, pain, and warmth and stiffness in joints. Other symptoms may occur, such as, decreased appetite, rash, and unexplained fever or fatigue.

Treating juvenile arthritis is an ongoing process. The most important step is an accurate diagnosis which can sometimes be a long and detailed process. Most pediatricians will likely recommend a visit to a pediatric rheumatologist. The goal of treatment for juvenile arthritis is to relieve inflammation, control pain, and improve quality of life.

Living with juvenile arthritis isn't always easy - the individual may experience flares or periods when the disease becomes worse. There is no cure for juvenile arthritis; however, with treatment, living with the disease can become easier. Most treatment plans involve a combination of medications, physical activity, eye care and healthy eating. Staying strong, positive and motivated will help with symptom management.

Resource:

Arthritis Today. [www.arthritistoday.org](http://www.arthritistoday.org).

Arthritis Foundation

1-800-283-7800

[www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org)

*Hospice care usually comes in a peaceful setting and is often given by people the patient knows and loves rather than in clinical surroundings, which sets it apart from other types of traditional medical care. Hospice care also emphasizes the spiritual needs of a patient and the family members. Answer True or False to the questions below.*

1. Terminally ill means having a life expectancy of six months or less if the disease runs its normal course.    T    F
2. Hospice care is offered for two periods of 90 days, followed by an unlimited number of 60-day periods, as long as the physician recertifies that the patient is still terminal.  
T    F
3. Doctors always agree with who should receive services from the hospice program.  
T    F
4. Once the decision is made for hospice care, a doctor must sign an order requesting it.    T    F
5. Most hospice care is delivered in the home, but it can also be provided in nursing homes, some assisted living facilities, and hospice facilities.    T    F
6. Grief doesn't end at a certain point after a loved one's death.    T    F
7. If grief is becoming worse over time, consult a mental health provider.    T    F
8. The hospice team includes specially trained medical professionals who focus on easing pain and managing symptoms.    T    F
9. Most people would prefer not to die at home.    T    F
10. If possible, consult with the person in your care to find ways to keep things comfortable, familiar and as homey as possible.    T    F

**KEY:** 1. T    2. T    3. F    4. T    5. T    6. T    7. T    8. T    9. F    10. T