

Juvenile myelomonocytic leukaemia (JMML)

Juvenile myelomonocytic leukaemia (JMML) is a very rare type of blood cancer. It mainly affects babies and toddlers under 3 but it may affect children up to 6 years old. It is more common in boys than in girls. It is also more common in children with conditions called Noonan syndrome and neurofibromatosis type 1.



Monocyte

JMML causes white blood cells called monocytes to divide uncontrollably. They can build up in your child's bone marrow and stop it from making enough healthy blood cells. They can also build up in the spleen, liver or lymph nodes.

We do not know the exact cause of JMML. It is not because of anything you or your child have or have not done. There is nothing you could have done to prevent it.

If your child has JMML, you might notice the following signs and symptoms:



Swollen tummy, tummy pain or other tummy problems



Loss of appetite, not gaining enough weight or losing weight



Lumps in their neck, armpit or around the groin



Fever for no obvious reason



Frequent or long-lasting infections



Feeling tired or lethargic, sleeping more than usual or being irritable



Dry cough or rapid breathing

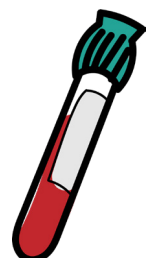


Pale skin



Skin rash or other skin problems

JMML is usually diagnosed from blood tests and bone marrow tests. Your child's medical team will let you know if your child needs any other tests or scans.



Treating JMML

There is no standard approach to treat JMML. Treatment varies from child to child.

Occasionally, JMML might get better on its own. In this case, your child might not need treatment straight away. Instead, they'll have regular tests and check-ups to see how JMML is affecting them.



If your child needs treatment, their medical team should explain what they recommend, how your child will have it and what to expect.

Treatment options include:

- A **stem cell transplant**. This has the potential to cure JMML, but it is intensive and has to be planned and timed carefully. Your child will usually stay in hospital for several weeks to have it.
- **Chemotherapy**. This aims to kill the cancer cells.
- A **clinical trial**, if there is one suitable for your child.
- **Supportive treatment** to control symptoms or side effects.



Finding out your child has JMML can be overwhelming. Stay in touch with your child's medical team. They are there to support you. And don't be afraid to ask for help from family, friends or Leukaemia Care.

Need support or information?

- Scan the QR code or visit leukaemiacare.org.uk
- Call our freephone helpline on **08088 010 444**
- Send a WhatsApp to **07500 068065**
- Email support@leukaemiacare.org.uk



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