

# Therapeutic effects of the anti-tumor necrosis factor monoclonal antibody, infliximab, in four children with refractory juvenile idiopathic arthritis

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**Objective:** To report the results of treatment with infliximab in patients with refractory juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA). **Patients and methods:** A prospective study of four children with refractory JIA was carried out. Infliximab (100 mg) was administered in weeks 0, 2 and 6. Subsequently, the drug was administered every 8 weeks. The following parameters were assessed at the beginning and at the end of the follow-up period: number of joints with active arthritis, number of joints with a limited range of motion, physician overall assessment of disease activity, parent assessment of the child's overall well-being, pain assessment scores, and erythrocyte sedimentation rate. Improvement was rated according to the definition of the American College of Rheumatology (ACR 30). Paired sample tests were used for statistical analysis. **Results:** Three girls and one boy aged between 10 and 16 years old with a history of JIA ranging from 1 to 9 years were included. The patients received inflixima