



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO COMER CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Pediatric Rheumatology

The new University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital is a state-of-the-art medical center with a kid-friendly, family focus. Our teams of pediatric experts develop individualized treatment plans for each child. They also successfully treat complex conditions.

In addition to advanced technology, our hospital offers private rooms and in-room sleeping accommodations for parents, as well as group play areas for kids. Our pediatric care is ranked among the best in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*.



WHY CHOOSE US FOR PEDIATRIC RHEUMATOLOGY CARE?

Nationally recognized for excellent clinical services, our three pediatric rheumatologists specialize in the diagnosis and comprehensive management of children with rheumatic diseases. Based at La Rabida Children's Hospital and at

Chicago Comer Children's Hospital, our program treats the largest number of children with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis and lupus in the Midwest. Together with an editorial board of international pediatric rheumatology experts, the center publishes the only online pediatric rheumatology journal in the world, the *Pediatric Rheumatology Online Journal* (PROJ). It can be found on the Web at www.pedrheumonlinejournal.org.

Our multidisciplinary team includes three pediatric rheumatology doctors, two nurses, one social worker, and a staff of nutritionists, physical therapists, psychologists, and other pediatric specialists. We work together to collaborate on a long-term treatment plan customized for your child. We also work as advocates to recommend and obtain special services from your child's school to optimize his or her educational experience.

PEDIATRIC RHEUMATOLOGY CARE AT THE FOREFRONT OF MEDICINE

Our nationally recognized experts care for children with conditions such as:

- Musculoskeletal pain, including hypermobility
- Pain amplification syndromes, such as fibromyalgia and reflex sympathetic dystrophy

- Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis
- Lupus
- Juvenile dermatomyositis
- Mixed connective tissue disease
- Scleroderma
- Rheumatic fever presenting with arthritis
- Spondyloarthropathies
- Juvenile psoriatic arthritis
- Henoch-Schönlein purpura
- Other Vasculitis syndromes such as Behçet's syndrome, polyarteritis, and Wegener's granulomatosis
- Lyme disease
- Kawasaki syndrome
- Fever of unknown origin
- Periodic fever syndromes

INNOVATIVE THERAPIES FOR COMPLEX CONDITIONS

For the treatment of complex diseases, our doctors are using a number of new approaches such as cytotoxic drugs and Rituximab for severe lupus nephritis and disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) for juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. Corticosteroids and new medicines for the treatment of arthritis, called biologic agents (e.g., etanercept and infliximab), also can provide relief from troublesome symptoms.



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Such drugs can dramatically slow the progress of these diseases and help control a child's symptoms. The center treats patients with these intravenous medications through its outpatient treatment unit at La Rabida Children's Hospital and the Special Procedures Area of the University of Chicago Hospitals.



Customized physical therapy and rehabilitation are also important aspects of treatment for many patients. Our physical therapists work with your child to improve strength and endurance through range-of-motion exercises, pool therapy, and the use of low-impact exercise equipment. Our occupational therapists increase hand and fine motor skills by providing an exercise program, employing splinting techniques, and working with your child on activities such as writing and dressing to increase your child's independence. In addition, your child is guided in a home exercise program to maximize his or her benefit from therapy.

If surgery is needed, we can provide total joint replacements for young people with irreversible joint changes. Other procedures include joint injections with corticosteroids, soft tissue releases to improve joint range, and additional techniques to improve joint mechanics and function.

EXPERTISE WITH JUVENILE RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND LUPUS

Children with rheumatic diseases – such as lupus and juvenile rheumatoid arthritis – have complicated needs that affect their health, development, and well-being. If your child is struggling with such a condition, you can be assured that our staff has the knowledge and skills to significantly improve your child's progress.

Support can play an important role in your child's treatment. For example, our adolescent Lupus Support Group meets monthly at La Rabida Children's Hospital. Led by a young adult with lupus, this forum provides the opportunity for young patients with lupus to meet others with similar challenges. Activities include an annual summer picnic and winter holiday party, participation in arthritis camp (often as counselors-in-training), and involvement in the Illinois Lupus Foundation annual fundraising walk.

CONTACT US

Extensive services are available for inpatients at Chicago Comer Children's Hospital. Outpatient services are provided primarily at La Rabida Children's Hospital. Our pediatric rheumatology physicians also see patients in Glenview, IL, and Merrillville, IN. To learn more about pediatric rheumatology services at Chicago Comer Children's Hospital and La Rabida Children's Hospital, please call 1-888-UCH-0200 or (773) 702-1000, or visit our Web site at www.uchicagokidshospital.org/rheumatology/. Please also contact the Rheumatology Section through La Rabida Children's Hospital at (773) 753-8644.



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