

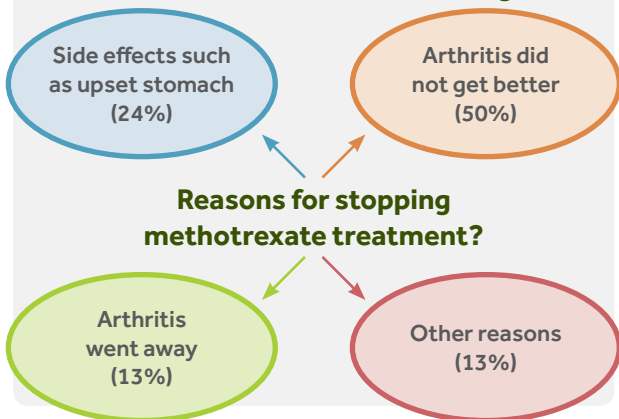
# Methotrexate for Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis

## Background

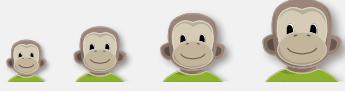
- Methotrexate (MTX) is often used to treat juvenile arthritis.
- Unfortunately, despite taking MTX, some children's arthritis will not get better. Other children may develop side effects.
- Also, parents often ask if their child gets better, how long will they have to take MTX?
- Despite the common use of this drug, there has been very little research into how many children stop the drug over time and the number who stop for different reasons.
- We studied 501 children who started MTX to try and answer some of these questions.



**2.5 years after MTX was started, half of the children were no longer taking the drug. The other half were still receiving it.**



**Children who had to stop for side effects or because their arthritis didn't get better were:**

- Older  Age
  - Had more severe disease when they were diagnosed
- Very well ————— 10 ————— Very unwell

## Future studies

We are collaborating with The Sparks Childhood Response to Medication Study (CHARMS) organised in London, to see if genetics may also influence how well MTX works in children with arthritis. So our genes can determine our eye colour, the colour of our hair but also whether we will respond to medication.

We hope to combine all of our results to provide better information to doctors and families about the best choice of treatment for arthritis.



### Did you know...

that your genes may affect the way you respond to different medications.