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**15 FERTILITY IN JUVENILE IDIOPATHIC ARTHRITIS**

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**Background**

Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) is a chronic rheumatic disease seen in children below 16 years of age. However, it may persist into adulthood. The damage caused by the disease can influence the sex life and fertility of adults with long-standing JIA.

**Objectives**

To study the fertility of patients with JIA.

**Methods**

We conducted a retrospective study including adults with long-standing JIA according to the International League of Associations for Rheumatology (ILAR) criteria.

A detailed questionnaire was completed for each participant by interviewing them as well as by information obtained from their medical records. We identified among the adult patients, those who are married, their age at marriage, the number of gestation and parity, the age of the first child, miscarriages, and occurrence of menopause.

**Results**

A total of 29 Patients were enrolled, the M/F sex ratio was 0.71. The mean age was  $35.69 \pm 11.72$  [18–61] years. The mean age of disease onset was  $11.10 \pm 4.25$  [2–16] years. The average disease duration was  $24.48 \pm 12.76$  [1–47] years. The mean BMI was  $21.20 \pm 4.89$  [14.17–27.55]  $\text{kg/m}^2$ , 36.9% of patient had a BMI  $\geq 25 \text{ kg/m}^2$ . Fourteen patients had hip involvement.

Seven patients (6 women, 1 man) were married (24%). The mean age at marriage was  $23.75 \pm 7.5$  [20–35] years. The mean delay between disease onset and marriage was  $10 \pm 6.68$  [6–20] years. Six patient had children, the mean number of gestation and parity were  $2.56 \pm 2.88$  [0–6] and  $2 \pm 2.29$  [0–6] respectively. Miscarriage was noted in 2 patients. Menopause was observed in 3 patients, the mean age at menopause was  $46.67 \pm 1.53$  [45–48] years.

**Conclusion**

Most of our patients were not married. This reflects the significant impact of the disease on the social and sexual life of JIA patients at adulthood.