



Dedicated to finding
a cure and better
treatments for
Juvenile Myositis
and improving
the lives of
families
affected
by JM



Cure JM is the leading funder of JM and autoimmune disease care and research. Here's how we're changing the lives of children with JM:

- Investing over **\$13 million** to help create major investigational programs at leading research institutions around the world.
- Providing vital resources and connections for over **3,000 patients** and families in **45 countries**.
- Funding over **170 critical research studies** moving us closer to a cure.
- Supporting **four major Centers of Excellence** to advance JM research and deliver world-class care to JM patients: George Washington University Hospital, Lurie Children's Hospital (Chicago), Seattle Children's Hospital and Duke Children's Hospital and Medical Center.
- Supporting **breakthrough genetics studies** at the world-renowned Center for Applied Genomics at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, as well as at other institutions.
- Assisting major **drug discovery** initiatives at the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences at NIH and in partnership with biotech companies with investigational new autoimmune drugs.
- Aiding integrated **patient registries** and biorepositories — critical assets and fundamental building blocks for future drug development and genomic discovery.
- Dedicating, since inception, **90% of contributions directly into research** and education.



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"Cure JM gives families hope, knowledge and love when a JM diagnosis turns your life upside down."
— Maerryane

"This organization helped my child get an early diagnosis, most certainly made a difference in my child's quality of life and will hopefully make a difference in her disease outcome."
— Dawn

"Cure JM Foundation was my flashlight in a pitch dark tunnel. I am grateful for the endless information, support, and knowledge I find there."
— Erika

"We are deeply grateful for the tremendous role Cure JM has played in raising awareness of JM and advocating for children and families. Through Cure JM's outstanding commitment to the well-being of these young patients and its generous donations to research, Cure JM has touched the lives of many individuals."

— Lauren M. Pachman, M.D.
Professor of Pediatrics, Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine Division of Pediatric Rheumatology, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
Head, Cure JM Program of Excellence in Juvenile Myositis Research, Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute



What is Juvenile Myositis?

Juvenile Myositis (JM), including Juvenile Dermatomyositis (JDM) and Juvenile Polymyositis (JPM), is a rare, life-threatening auto-immune disease that attacks children's muscles and skin. It can cause pain, weakness, the inability to walk, disfigurement, organ failure and can even lead to death. Approximately 2 to 4 children in a million in the United States are diagnosed with JM each year.

For many children with JM, it's a challenge to simply stand up or sit down. Extreme fatigue and weak, painful muscles make walking difficult, and activities like running or climbing stairs are nearly impossible.

Many sufferers also develop a red skin rash due to inflammation in the blood vessels under the skin and in the muscles. Painful calcium deposits (known as calcinosis), vasculitic ulcers, changes in cardiac function and joint contractures are other possible complications. Esophageal and gastrointestinal inflammation is also common in children with JM, causing difficulty swallowing and severe stomach pain.

What causes Juvenile Myositis?

Researchers believe both environmental and genetic factors cause JM. Children who develop this disease often have a family history of other autoimmune diseases, such as thyroid problems, diabetes, arthritis or Crohn's disease. If a child is genetically predisposed to JM, experts suspect a microbe, such as a virus or bacteria, or environmental factors, such as a heavy dose of sun exposure, might trigger a runaway immune response that triggers the body to attack itself.

What is the Treatment for JM?

Although medications alleviate some symptoms of JM, the disease has no cure. The primary medications used to treat the symptoms of JM are immunosuppressants, corticosteroids and chemotherapy. These medications can cause severe side effects, so the treatments can be as challenging as the disease itself.

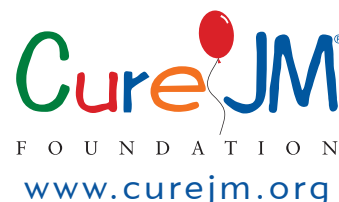
What is the Prognosis for JM?

There is no cure for JM, but with advances in early diagnosis and aggressive treatment, outcomes continue to improve. Some children experience a mild form of the disease, and go into remission; others follow a more severe and potentially debilitating course that can be life-long. About one third of JM patients will have some functional disability. Some will battle an array of serious complications, including the inability to walk, ongoing pain, disfigurement and even death. Whether the course of the disease is mild or severe, JM is life-changing for all children and their families.

How can I Get Involved?

Cure JM is the ONLY organization solely dedicated to supporting the most promising JM research and improving the lives of every family fighting JM. Please help us in our mission by making a donation today online, by mail or through other donation options. Learn more at www.curejm.org/donate.

You can also support Cure JM, and directly impact our ability to fund JM research, by volunteering your time and talents. There are many volunteer opportunities, including hosting a fundraiser event, or starting, or joining, a walk or a chapter. Email info@curejm.org for more information.



www.curejm.org

P.O. Box 45768, Baltimore, MD 21297
(760) 487-1079 | info@curejm.org

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