

Juvenile Xanthogranuloma (JXG)

- Juvenile Xanthogranuloma (JXG) is a rare disorder that typically affects infants, but has been found in older patients as well. “Xantho” means yellowish and “granulo” means having a granular appearance. The name of this disorder thus refers to the rash that is commonly associated with it.
- There are two main types of JXG. The cutaneous form involves a skin rash most commonly found on the head, neck, and upper trunk. The systemic form affects other organs of the body and may or may not affect the skin.
- Some possible sites of involvement include skin (small, usually raised, red or yellow-brown spots), subcutaneous soft tissue and muscle (small lumps under the skin), brain and spinal cord (lumps pressing on normal tissue, possibly causing seizures or other problems), lungs, liver, spleen and other organs (lumps interfering with normal function), and eye (vision problems).
- Most commonly, a patient will present with nodular skin lesions (a rash). If this is the only site of disease, the rash may eventually go away without any treatment at all, or it may require treatment. The systemic forms can result in a more serious condition affecting organ function and rarely leading to death.
- JXG may be present at birth and most often arises during infancy. In childhood, JXG occurs more often in males. About 75% of systemic JXG cases occur among children less than 1 year of age. It is uncertain how many new children are affected each year due to the difficulty in recognizing and diagnosing the disease, and because lesions, especially in the skin often go away without treatment.
- If there are a lot of lesions that affect organ function, treatment with chemotherapy or targeted therapy may be required.
- A diagnosis of JXG is usually made following a biopsy (taking a piece of tissue) of a lesion (area affected by the disease). If systemic disease is suspected, other tests such as a PET scan, CT scan, MRI scan, chest x-ray or ultrasound may be necessary.

**Learn more about
JXG and help us
spread awareness!**

