Juvenile idiopathic arthritis is the group of diseases characterized by the presence of chronic arthritis of unknown cause and onset up to 16 years of age.

The medical records of 16 patients were reviewed in order to classify them according to the criteria of the ILAR. The data were compared to the literature.

14 Girls (87.5%) and 2 boys (12.5%), with a median age of 117 months; 1 (6.25%) classified as systemic, 9 (56.25%) with the pauciarticular form, 4 (25%) polyarticular form, 1 (6.25%) started systemic and evolves to polyarticular and 1 (6.25%) started polyarticular and evolved to pauciarticular. Uveitis was found in 1 (6.25%) female patient. FAN was positive in 3 (16.6%) and rheumatoid factor in 2 (15.38%). Psoriatic arthritis related to enthesitis and undifferentiated were not found. The follow-up time in the service was 29.5 months. The time between onset of symptoms and referral to the service was 12 months.

The differences in distribution and prevalence of JIA subtypes are generally known according to the observance of the different origins of the population. This study shows the predominance of the pauciarticular form, indicating differences between the national and international literature on the presentation of JIA. Suggesting the existence of genetic factors predisposing to the disease. In addition to a delay in the diagnosis of an average of one year, it is also observed that it generates a higher risk of irreversible joint damage. The early diagnosis is still a challenge to be overcome.