

Will My Child Get MY RHEUMATOLOGIC CONDITION?

Examples of autoimmune disorders include: *Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis, diabetes, Hashimoto's thyroid disease, psoriasis, crohn's, lupus and some Periodic Fever Syndromes (PFS)*

GENETICALLY PREDISPOSED:

Most Rheumatologic conditions are not directly transmitted genetically. However, there is a higher risk that your child may be diagnosed with an autoimmune disorder at some point in their lifetime. The risk is also higher that they will develop one in childhood if you developed yours as a child too. The overall risk is higher than children whose parent(s) do not have an autoimmune disorder but there are also many children of parents with Rheumatologic conditions who never develop autoimmune disease. The severity of your condition does not mean that if your child develops an autoimmune disorder there's would be as severe or manageable as yours. No one can predict the possible severity of their condition based on yours.

GENETICALLY PREDISPOSED:

Periodic Fever Syndromes are genetically transmitted to children whose parent(s) have one or two of the genes. In some cases it will be the first PFS known to the family because it occurs by a random genetic mutation(change) for the first time.

MOTHER'S WITH +RNP ANTIBODIES OR SLE:

Neonatal lupus (NL) is a passively acquired autoimmune disease that occurs in a very small percentage of all fetuses and neonates. It occurs when a mother who has elevated SSA/Ro and/or SSB/La transmits RoRNP autoantibodies through the placenta. Fetuses and neonates may present with congenital heart block (CHB) or skin features and less commonly both.

This form of lupus is not a lifelong condition and does not cause the same problems as the mother's lupus. Neonatal Lupus is identified as a heart condition that is actually a defect in the electrical activity of the heart muscle. It can be a very serious condition or just mean the baby needs to be seen by pediatric cardiology through the first 6mos. of life. If you are concerned about this you can ask your Rheumatology Provider to explain this in more detail. Hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil) has been shown to decrease the chances of transmitting the antibodies to the infant when it is given to the pregnant mother after 6-weeks gestation until delivery.

These antibodies are NOT transmitted through breastmilk.

