

# Identification and Grading of Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis Related Changes in the Temporomandibular Joints in Contrast Enhanced Magnetic Resonance Imaging:

## An Imaging Atlas

Revised and shortened educational poster (EDU-107), presented at the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Categorical Course of the Society of Pediatric Radiology - Vancouver, BC, Canada on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

(Junhasavasdikul T, Kellenberger CJ, Tolend M, Doria AS (2017) Identification and Grading of Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis Related Changes in the Temporomandibular Joints in Contrast Enhanced Magnetic Resonance Imaging: An Imaging Atlas. *Pediatr Radiol* 47 (Suppl 1):S111-112. doi:10.1007/s00247-017-3809-x)

[Online Resource 1](#) to pictorial essay

“Temporomandibular Joint Atlas for Detection and Grading of Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis Involvement by Magnetic Resonance Imaging”, *Pediatric Radiology*

Christian J. Kellenberger, Thitiporn Junhasavasdikul, Mirkamal Tolend, Andrea S. Doria

Corresponding Author:

Christian J. Kellenberger, Department of Diagnostic Imaging, University Children's Hospital Zürich,  
christian.kellenberger@kispi.uzh.ch

# Components of Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ)



## Synovial fluid or joint effusion

Isointense signal compared to cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) on fluid sensitive-images. Small amount of fluid can be seen in normal TMJs.

## Synovium

Intermediate signal structure on fluid-sensitive images. Normal synovial lining is not perceptible.

## Articular disk

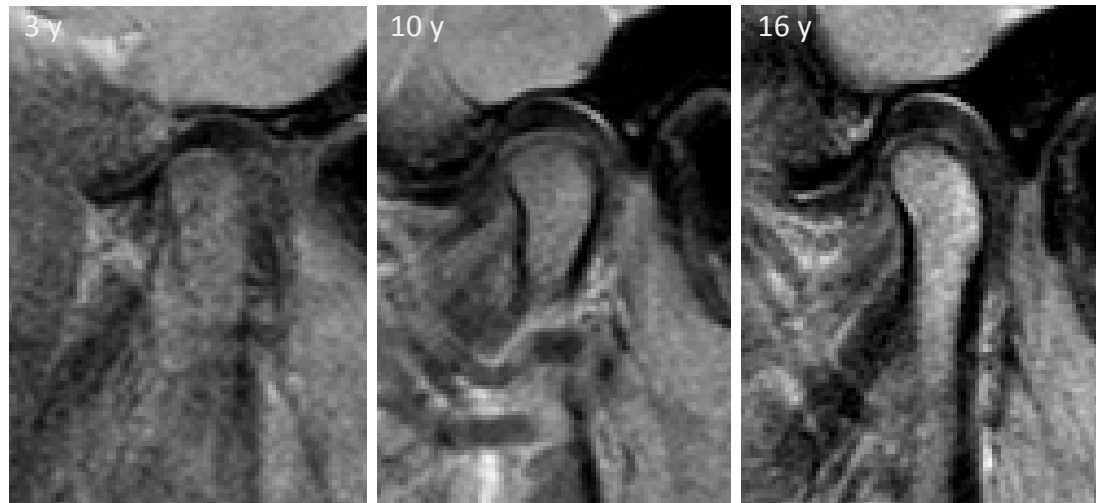
Hypointense intraarticular biconcave structure in all sequences sitting between the head of mandibular condyle and the glenoid fossa of the temporal bone.

## Joint enhancement

A normal TMJ can minimally enhance along the joint space, without any evidence of abnormal widening of the joint space and present with signal intensity higher than adjacent musculature and iso- or hypointense to vessels.

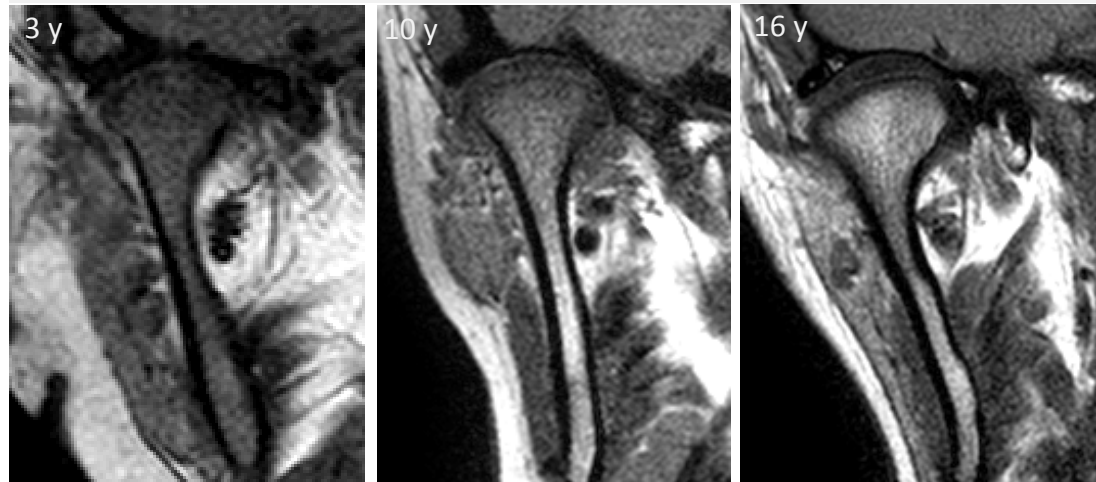
# Age-Related Changes in Osseous Configuration and Bone Marrow Composition

Shape and contour of mandibular condyle show increased anterior tilt and changes from rounded to oval contour over time



Sagittal-oblique PD-weighted images show configuration of mandibular condyle (left to right): rounded head without a tilt, intermediate appearance and oval head with an anterior tilt

Marrow conversion is expected, changing from hematopoietic to fatty marrow



Coronal T1-weighted images show bone marrow type (left to right): hematopoietic marrow, mixed and fatty marrow types

# TMJ MRI Scoring System According to OMERACT JIA Group

- Assessment of 2 domains:

## Inflammatory domain

- Semi-quantitative assessment of bone marrow oedema and enhancement
- Semi-quantitative assessment of joint effusion, joint enhancement and synovial thickening

## Damage domain

- Semi-quantitative assessment of condylar flattening, bone erosions and disk abnormalities

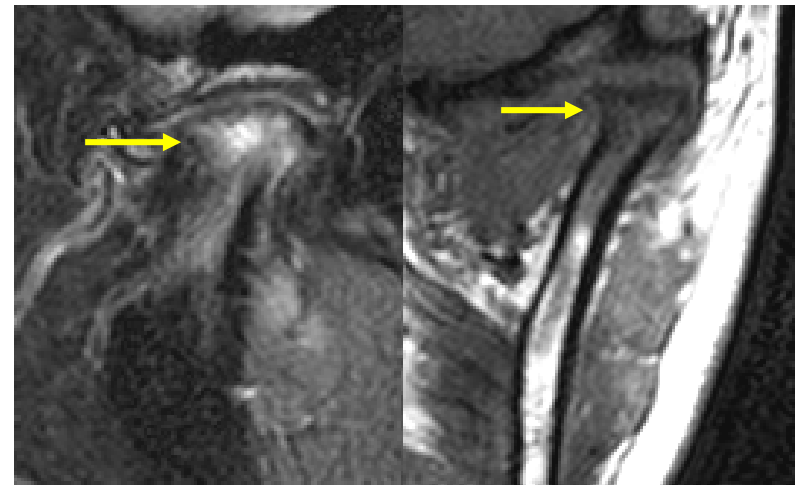
A) Inflammatory Domain						
Bone Marrow Oedema		Bone Marrow Enhancement	Joint Effusion	Synovial Thickening	Joint Enhancement	
Definition	Compared to the mandibular ramus, hyperintense marrow signalling within the condyle on T2w fs or STIR images, and/or hypointense signalling on pre-contrast T1w images without fs		Compared to the mandibular ramus, hyperintense marrow signalling within the condyle on post-contrast T1w fs images	Increased joint fluid with isointense signalling of joint space compared to that of cerebrospinal fluid on T2w fs or STIR images	Thickened synovial lining of the joint compartments with intermediate signal on T2w images	Signal intensity of the synovium, capsule, and joint fluid higher than that of muscle on post-contrast T1w fs images
Grading	0	Absent	Absent	Absent: $\leq 1$ mm fluid in joint recess	Absent: No synovium visible (joint space $\leq 1$ mm width)	Normal: High signal intensity confined to signal perimeter of normal amount of fluid on corresponding fluid-sensitive image
	1	Present	Present	Small: $>1$ and $\leq 2$ mm fluid in recess or involving entire joint compartment	Mild: $>1$ and $\leq 2$ mm thickness at the point of maximum synovial thickening	Mild: High signal intensity focally exceeding signal perimeter of physiologic amount of joint fluid on corresponding fluid-sensitive image
	2			Large: $>2$ mm fluid in recess or involving entire joint compartment	Moderate/Severe: $>2$ mm thickness at the point of maximum synovial thickening	Moderate/Severe: High signal intensity diffusely involving one or both joint compartments
B) Damage Domain						
Condylar Flattening		Erosions	Disk Abnormalities			
Definition	Loss of the round or slightly angular shape of the condylar head, viewed in the sagittal-oblique plane		Any irregularity or break of the bony joint surfaces leading to the loss of the smooth continuous outline of the bone	Any abnormality of the articular disk, including flattening, displacement or destruction		
Grading	0	Absent: Round/slightly angular shape		Absent: No irregularities or deep breaks		
	1	Mild: Extent of flattening involves part of the surface of the condyle		Mild: Presence of irregularities involving only part of the articular surface of the condyle		
	2	Moderate/Severe: Extent of flattening involves the entire surface of the condyle, or loss of height of the condyle		Moderate/Severe: Presence of deep breaks in the subchondral bone seen in two planes, or irregularities involving the entire articular surface of the condyle		

T2w T2-weighted; fs fat saturated; STIR short tau inversion recovery; T1w T1-weighted

# Inflammatory Domain

## Bone Marrow Oedema

Definition	Compared to the mandibular ramus, hyperintense marrow signalling within the condyle on fluid-sensitive images, and/or hypointense signalling on pre-contrast T1-weighted images without fat saturation
Grading	Absent
	Present



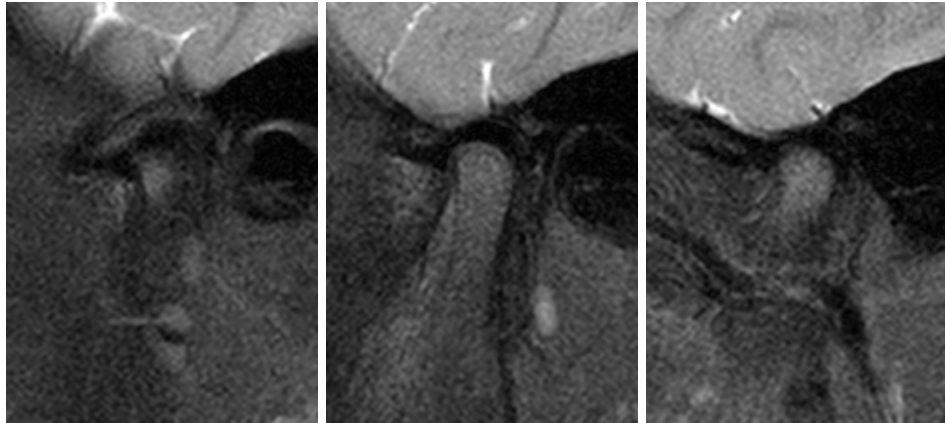
Hyperintense compared to ramus on T2-weighted fat saturated image

Hypointense on pre-contrast T1-weighted image

Age 0-6 years old

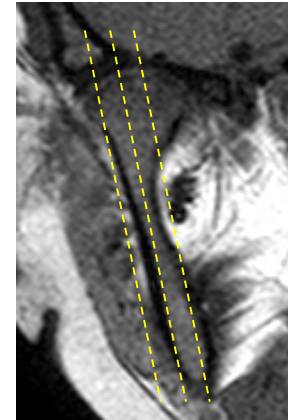
Absent

Sag-obl T2 fs

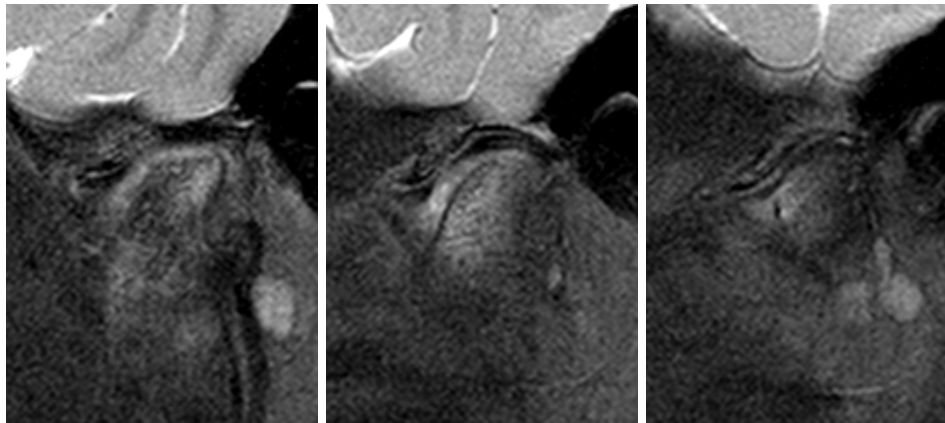


A 3-year-old boy with an unremarkable TMJ

Cor T1



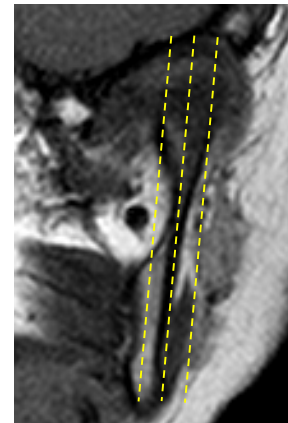
Sag-obl T2 fs



Present

Left TMJ of a 4-year-old boy with a known history of JIA

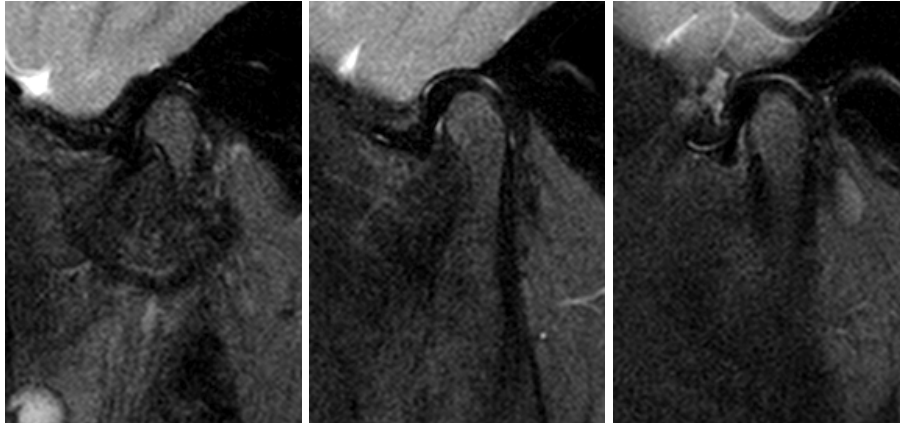
Cor T1



Age 7-13 years old

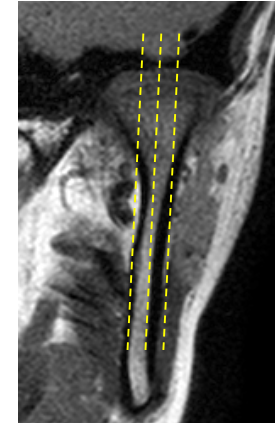
Absent

Sag-obl T2 fs

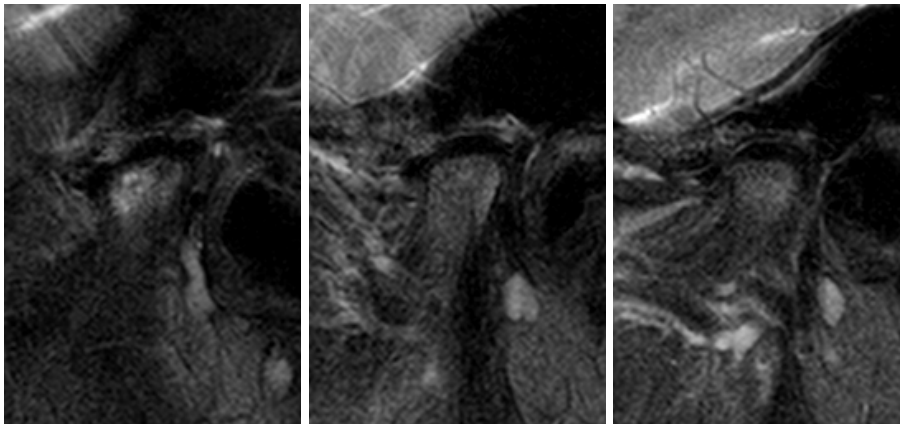


A 12-year-old boy with an unremarkable TMJ

Cor T1



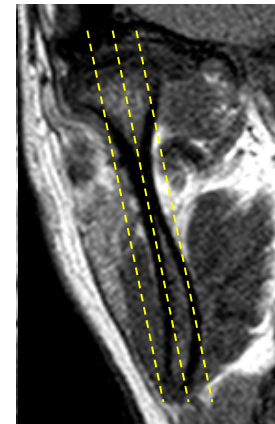
Sag-obl T2 fs



Present

Right TMJ of a 13-year-old girl with a known history of JIA

Cor T1

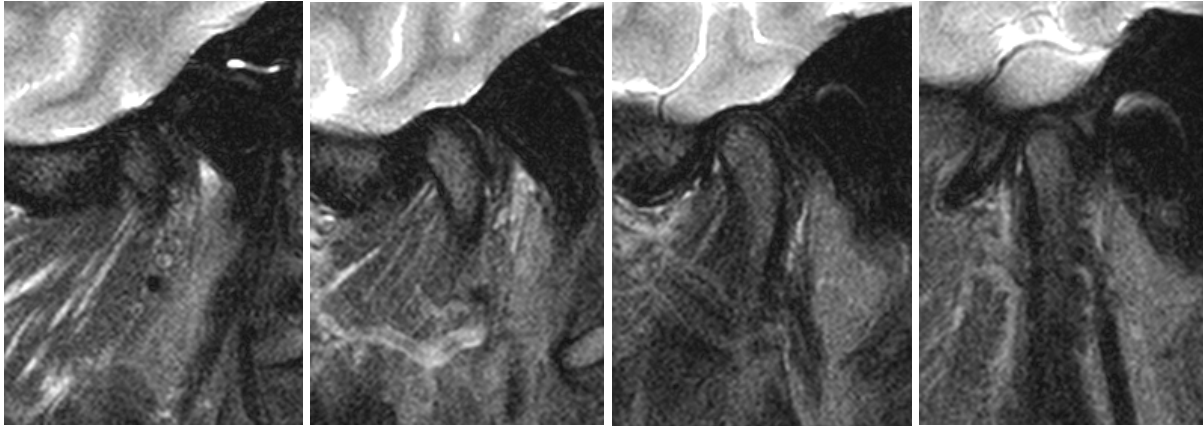




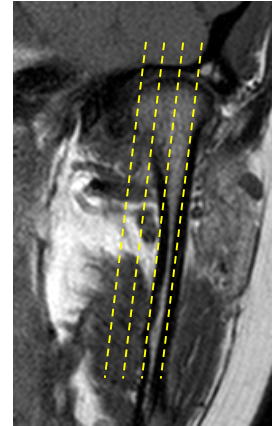
Age 14-18 years old

Absent

Sag-obl T2 fs



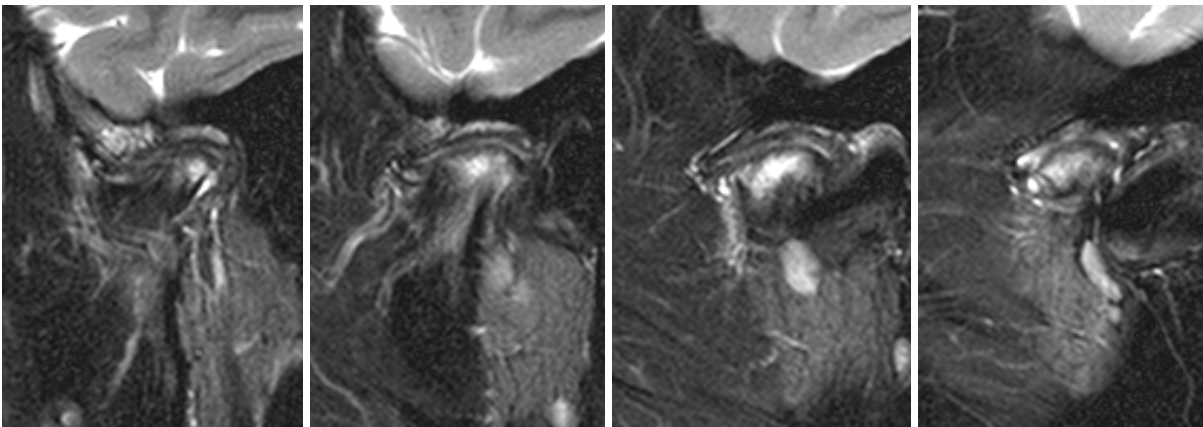
Cor T1



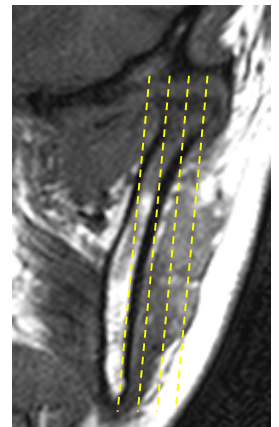
TMJ of a 17-year-old girl with an unremarkable TMJ

Present

Sag-obl T2 fs



Cor T1

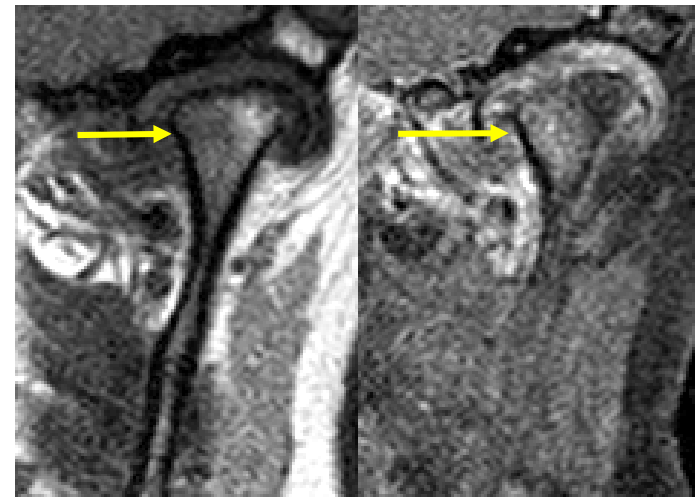


Left TMJ of a 17-year-old girl with a known history of JIA

# Inflammatory Domain

## Bone Marrow Enhancement

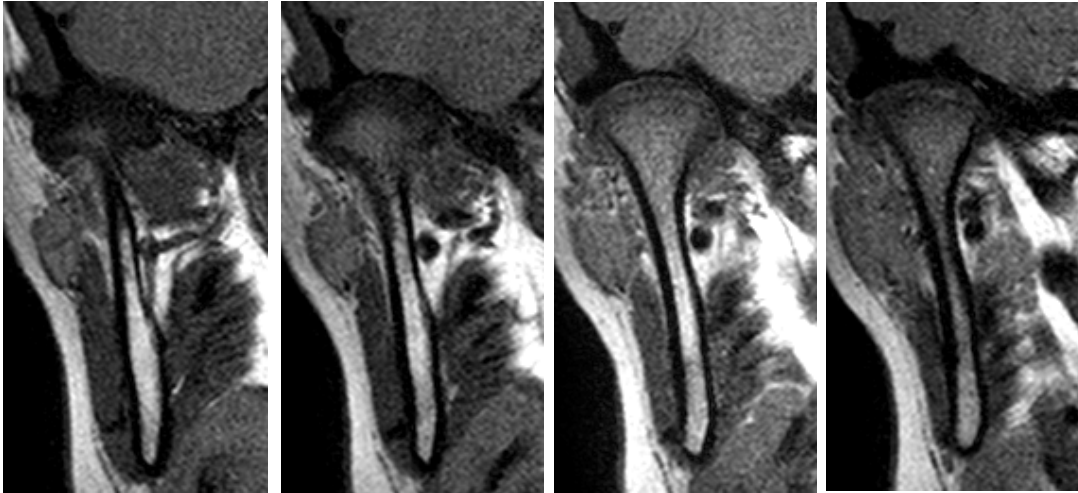
Definition	Compared to the mandibular ramus, hyperintense marrow signalling within the condyle on post-contrast T1-weighted fat-saturated images
Grading	Absent Present



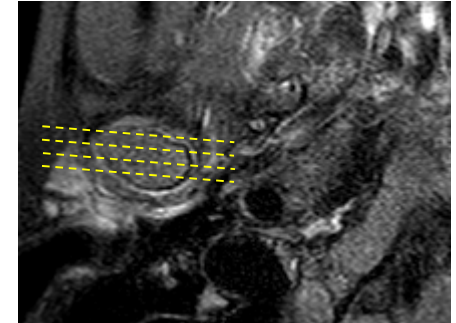
Hypointense signal on pre-contrast T1-weighted image (left) shows higher signal intensity than adjacent marrow on post-contrast T1-weighted fat-saturated image (right)

Absent

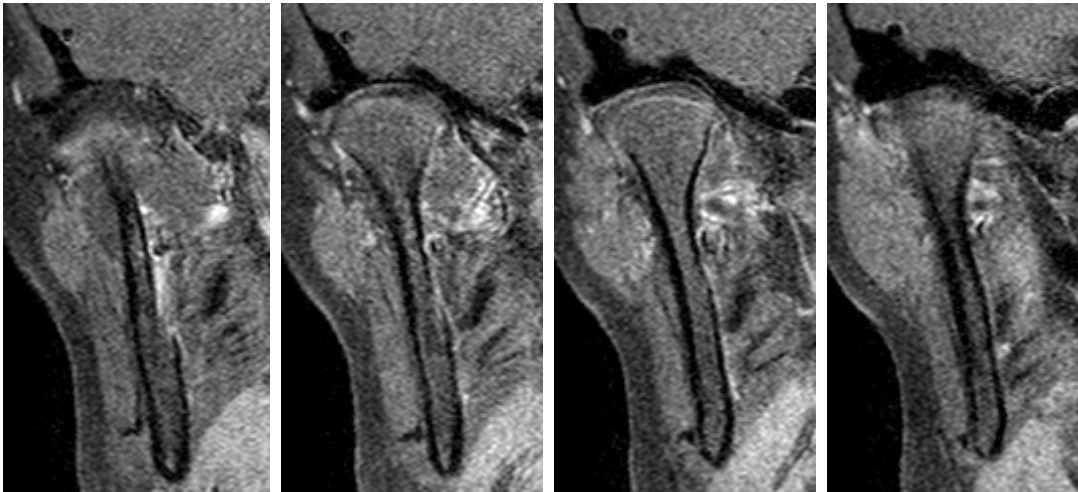
Cor T1



Ax T1 fs Gd



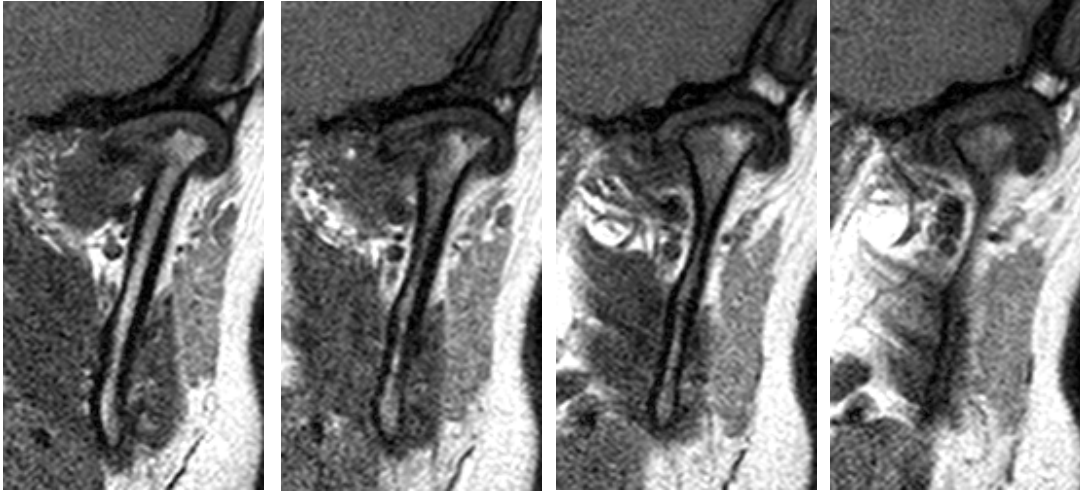
Cor T1 fs Gd



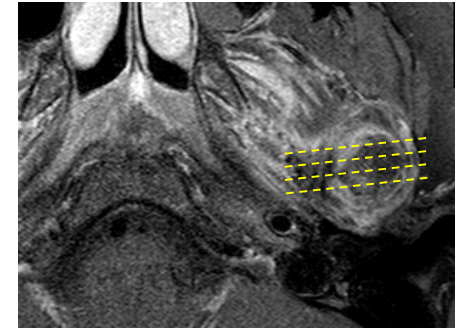
Right TMJ of a 12-year-old boy

## Present

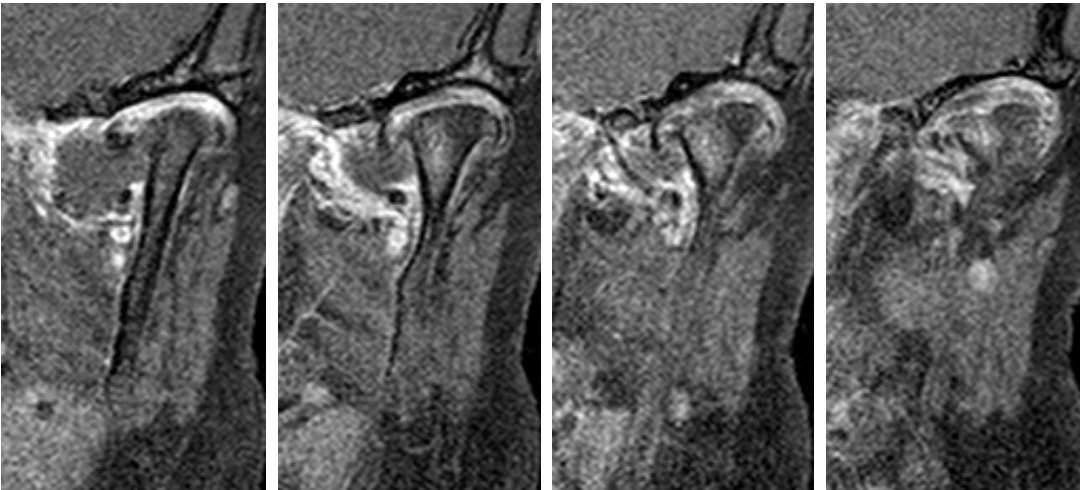
Cor T1



Ax T1 fs Gd

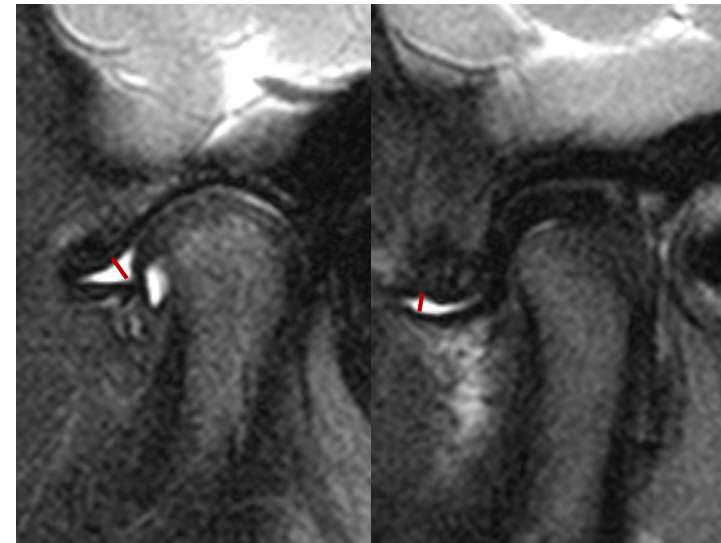


Cor T1 fs Gd



A 12-year-old boy with a known history of JIA

Definition	Increased joint fluid with isointense signalling of joint space compared to that of cerebrospinal fluid on fluid-sensitive images
Grading	Absent: ≤1mm fluid in joint recess
	Small: >1 and ≤2mm fluid in recess or involving entire joint compartment
	Large: >2mm fluid in recess or involving entire joint compartment

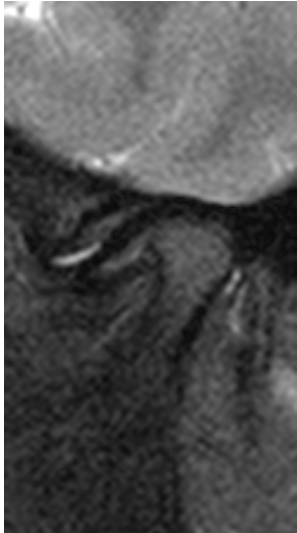


Measuring joint effusion in the largest joint recess on sagittal-oblique T2-weighted fat-saturated image

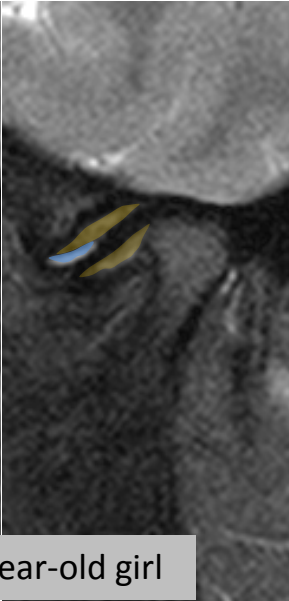
# Inflammatory Domain

## Differentiation between Effusion and Synovium

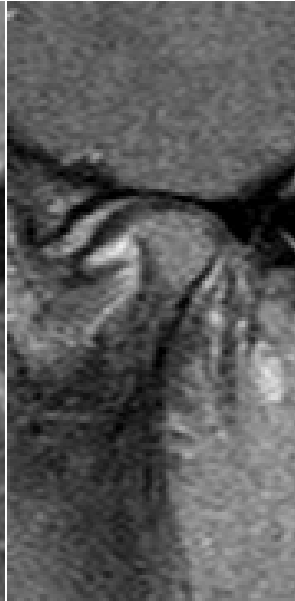
Sag-obl T2 fs



Left TMJ of a 12-year-old girl



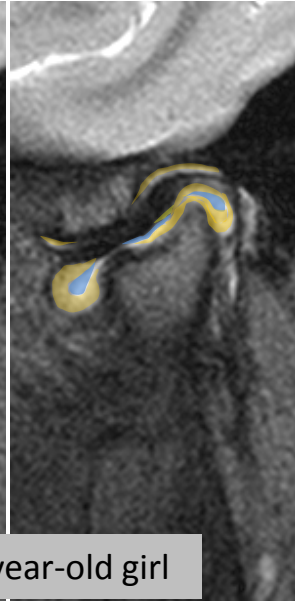
Sag-obl T1 fs Gd



Sag-obl T2 fs



Left TMJ of a 10-year-old girl



Sag-obl T1 fs Gd



### Synovial fluid

Intraarticular isointense signal structure on T2-weighted fat-saturated image compared to signal of CSF, which may enhance after contrast administration

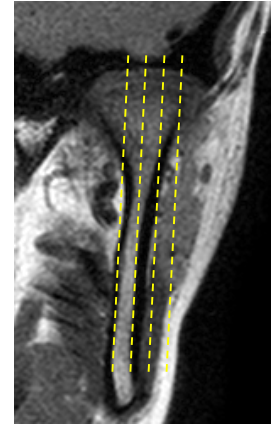
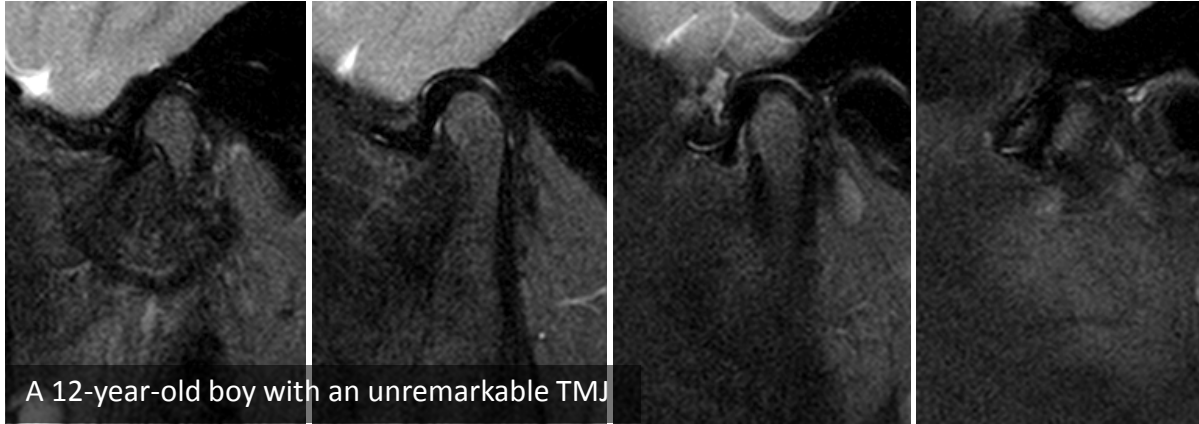
### Synovium

Intermediate signal intensity structure on T2-weighted fat-saturated image, which enhances after contrast administration

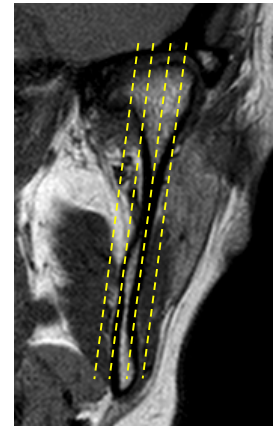
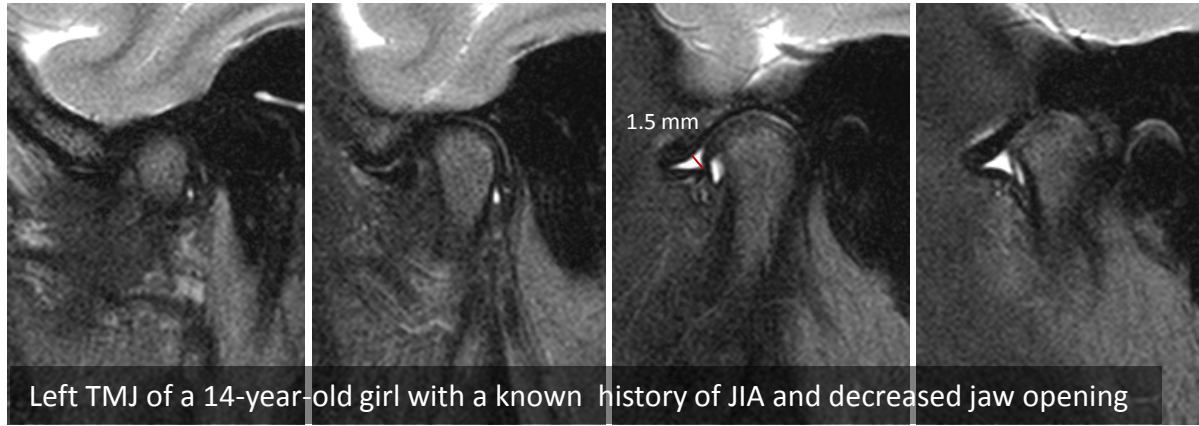
Sag-obl T2 fs

Cor T1

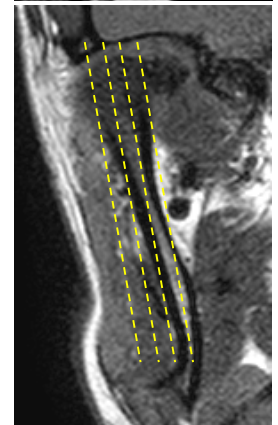
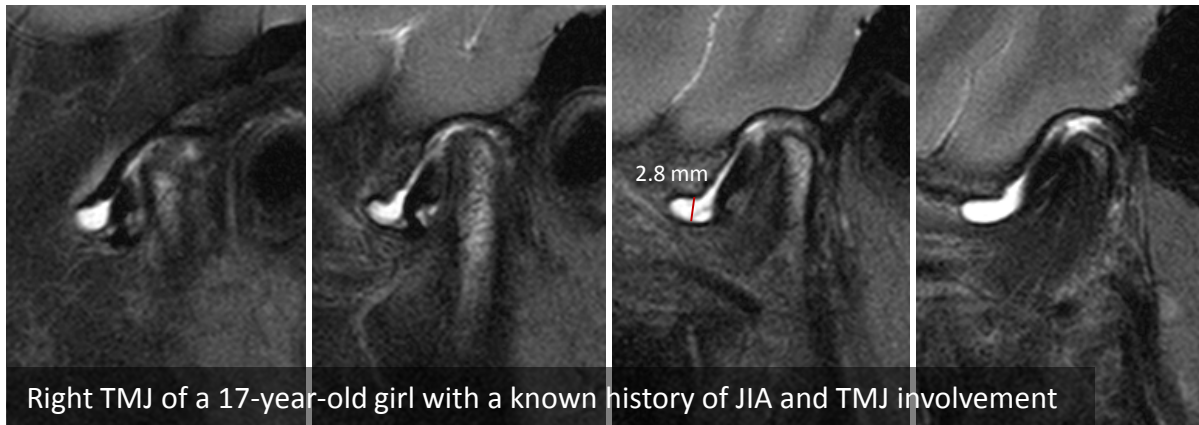
Absent



Mild



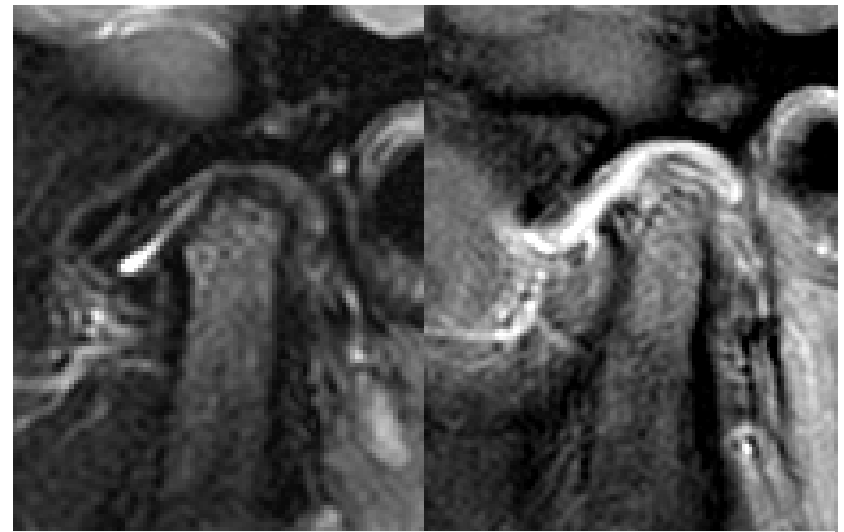
Moderate/  
Severe



# Inflammatory Domain

## Joint Enhancement

Definition	Signal intensity of the synovium, capsule, and joint fluid higher than that of muscle on post-contrast T1-weighted fat-saturated images
Grading	Normal: High signal intensity confined to signal perimeter of normal fluid on corresponding fluid-sensitive image
	Mild: High signal intensity exceeding signal perimeter of normal fluid on corresponding fluid-sensitive image
	Moderate/Severe: High signal intensity diffusely involving one or both joint compartments

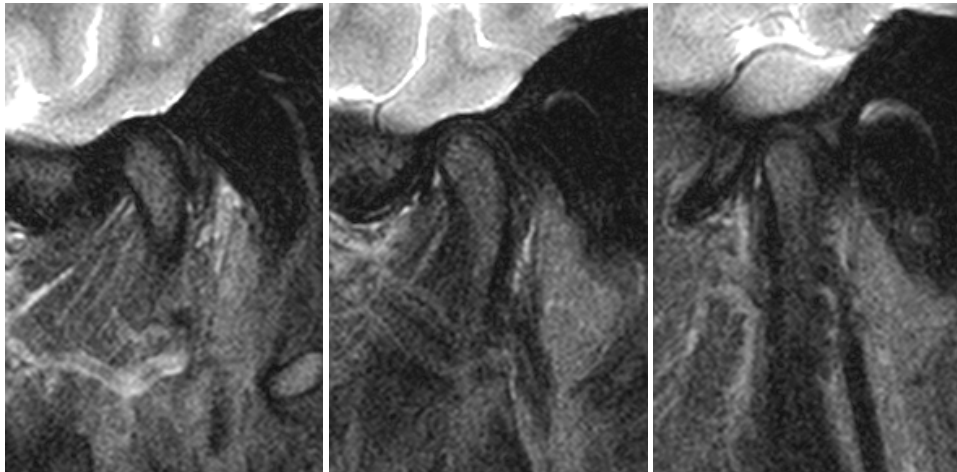


Sagittal T2-weighted fat-saturated (left) and post-contrast T1-weighted fat-saturated (right) images demonstrate joint enhancement

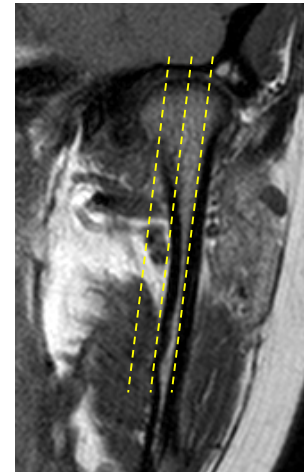


Normal

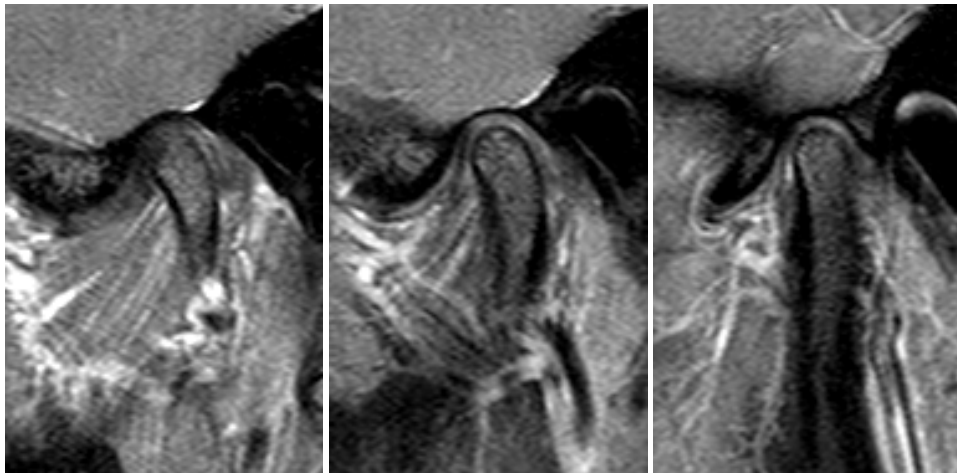
Sag-obl T2 fs



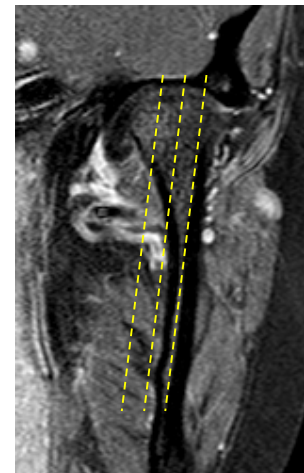
Cor T1



Sag-obl T1 fs Gd



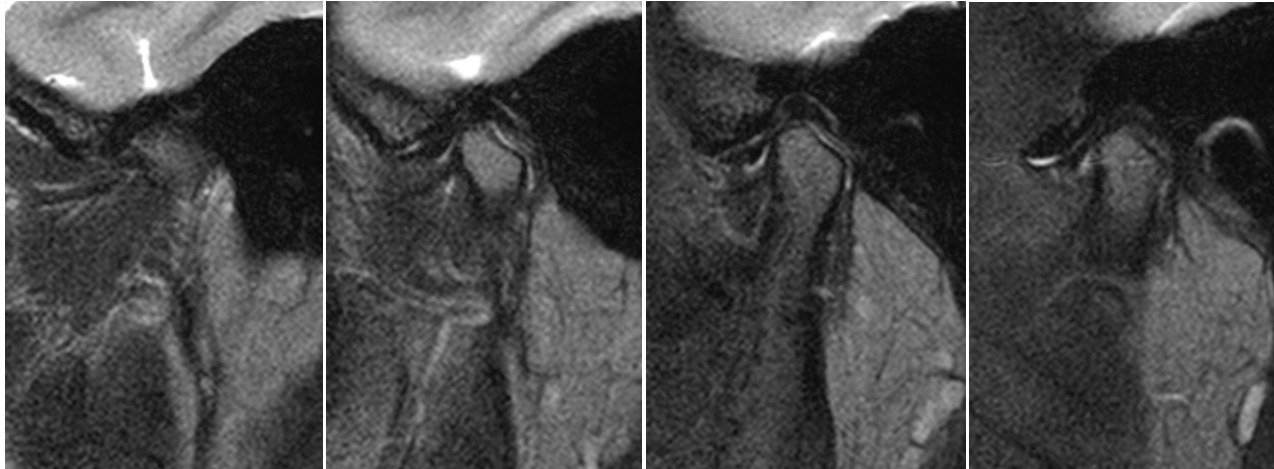
Cor T1 fs Gd



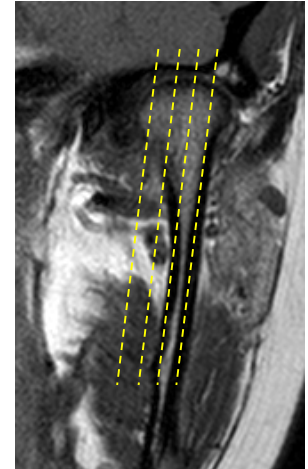
An unremarkable TMJ of a 16-year-old girl presented with knee pain and right jaw click with pain

Mild

Sag-obl T2 fs



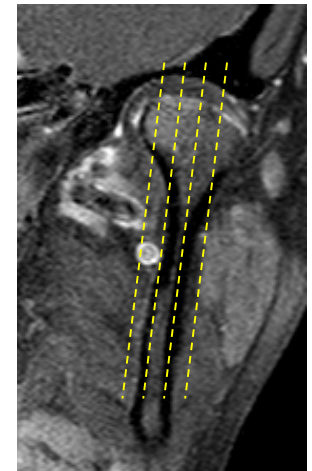
Cor T1



Sag-obl T1 fs Gd

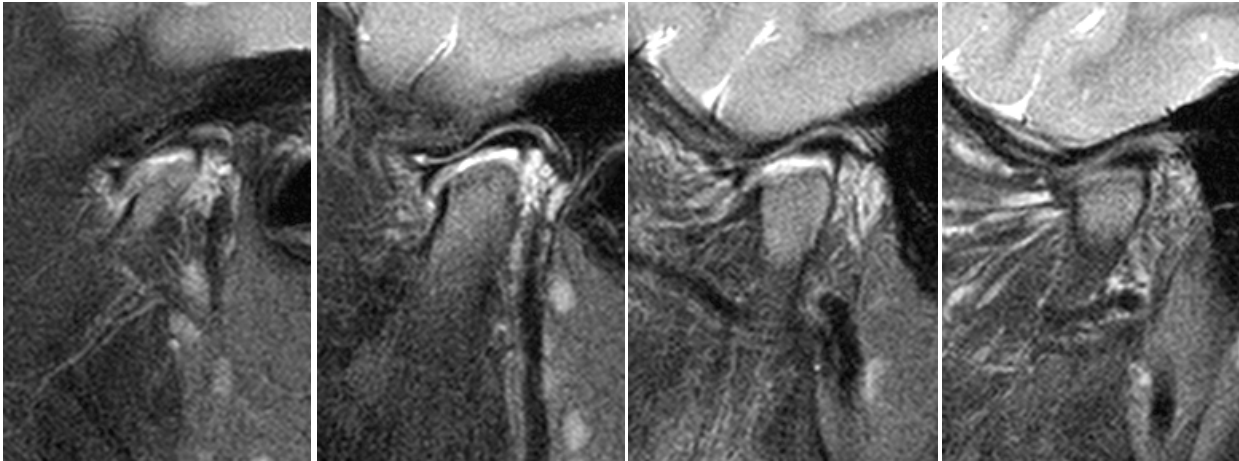


Cor T1 fs Gd

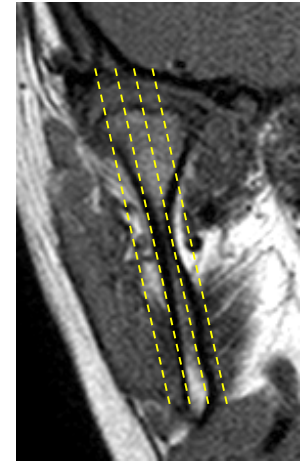


Left TMJ of a 17-year-old girl with a known history of JIA

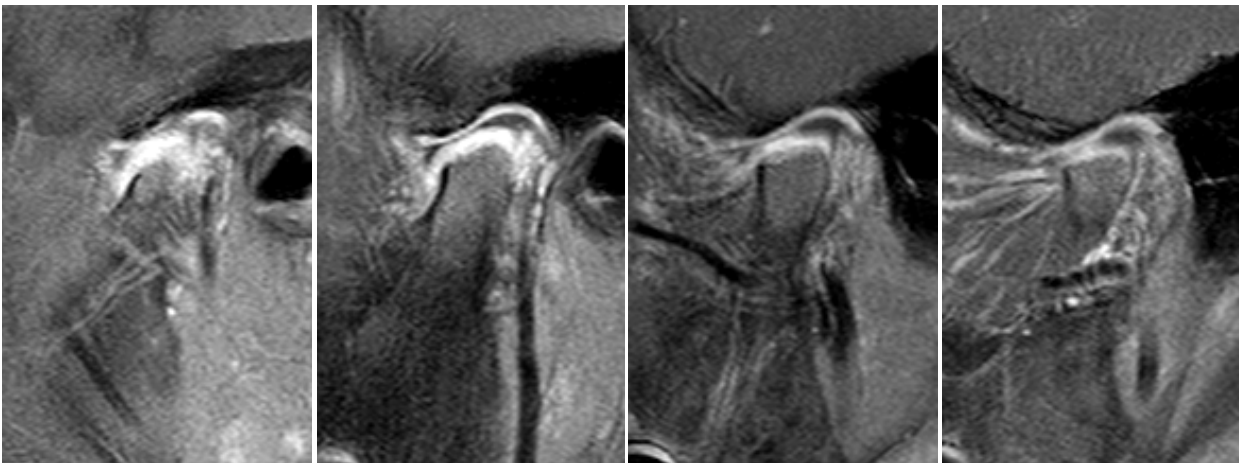
Sag-obl T2 fs



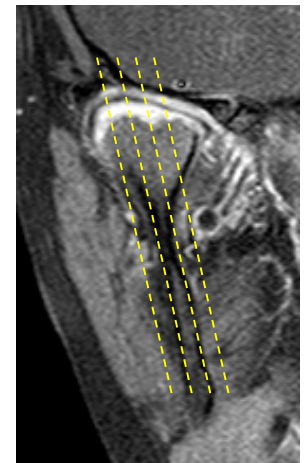
Cor T1



Sag-obl T1 fs Gd



Cor T1 fs Gd



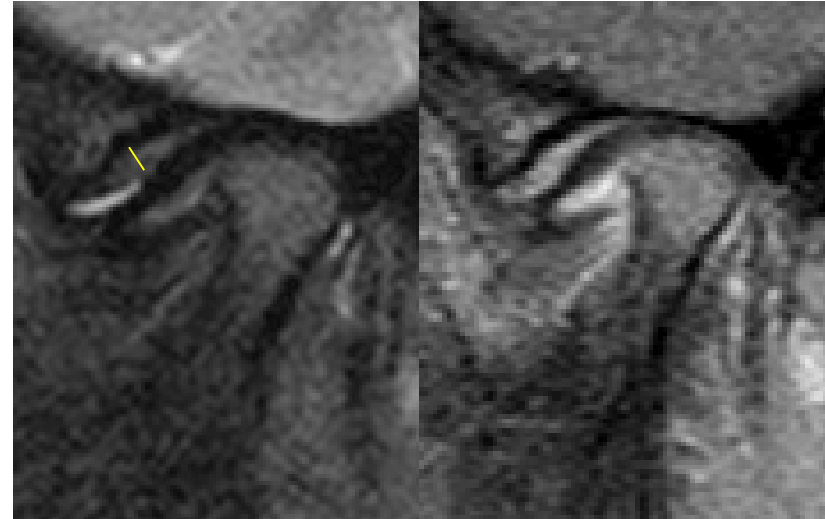
Moderate/  
Severe

Right TMJ of a 7-year-old boy with a known history of JIA

# Inflammatory Domain

## Synovial Thickening

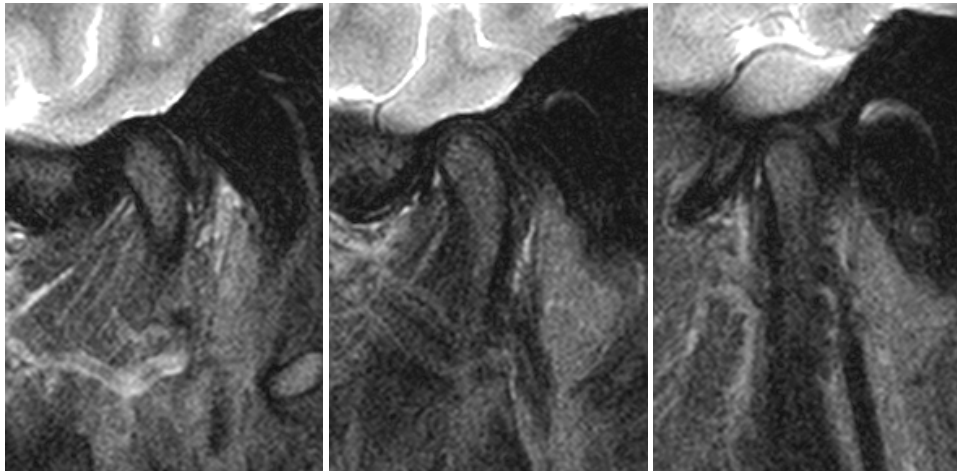
Definition	Thickened synovial lining of the joint compartments with intermediate signal intensity on fluid-sensitive images
Grading	Absent: No synovium visible (apparent joint space $\leq 1$ mm width)
	Mild: >1 and $\leq 2$ mm thickness at the point of maximum synovial thickening
	Moderate/Severe: >2mm thickness at the point of maximum synovial thickening



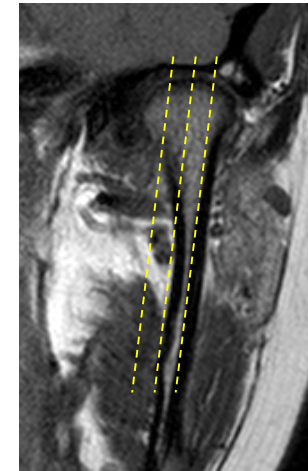
Maximal thickness of synovium is measured on sag-obl T2 fs (left) which enhances on sag-obl T1 fs Gd (right)

Absent

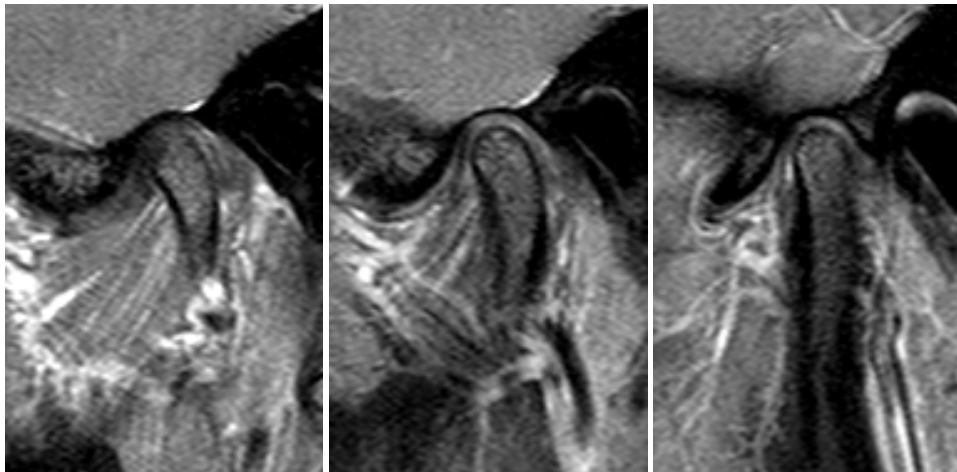
Sag-obl T2 fs



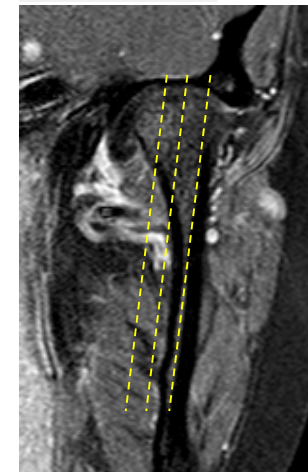
Cor T1



Sag-obl T1 fs Gd



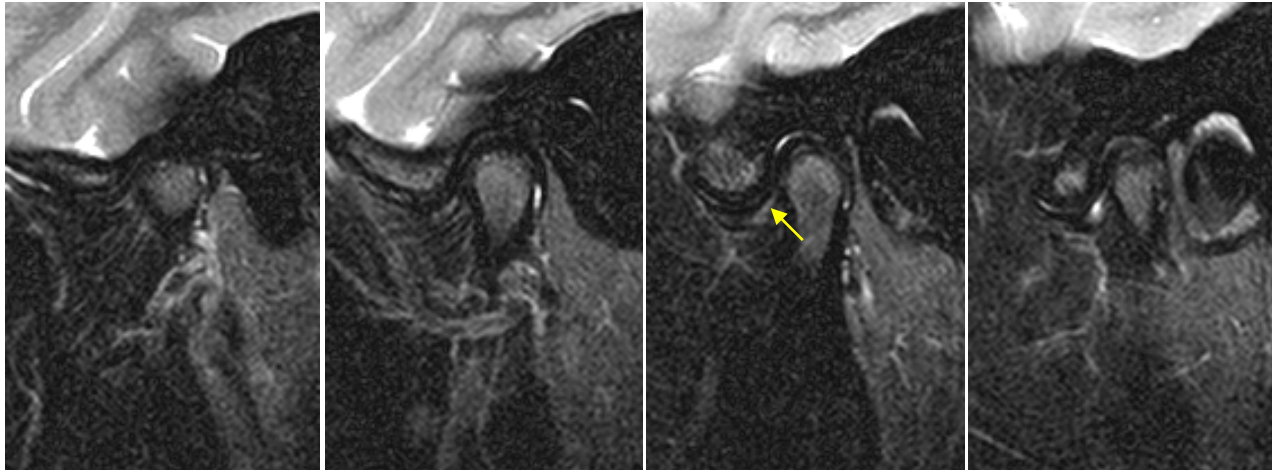
Cor T1 fs Gd



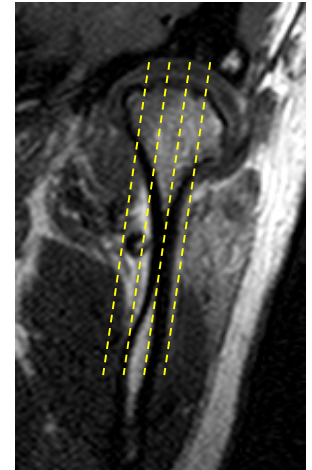
An unremarkable TMJ of a 16-year-old girl who presented with knee pain and right jaw click with pain

Mild

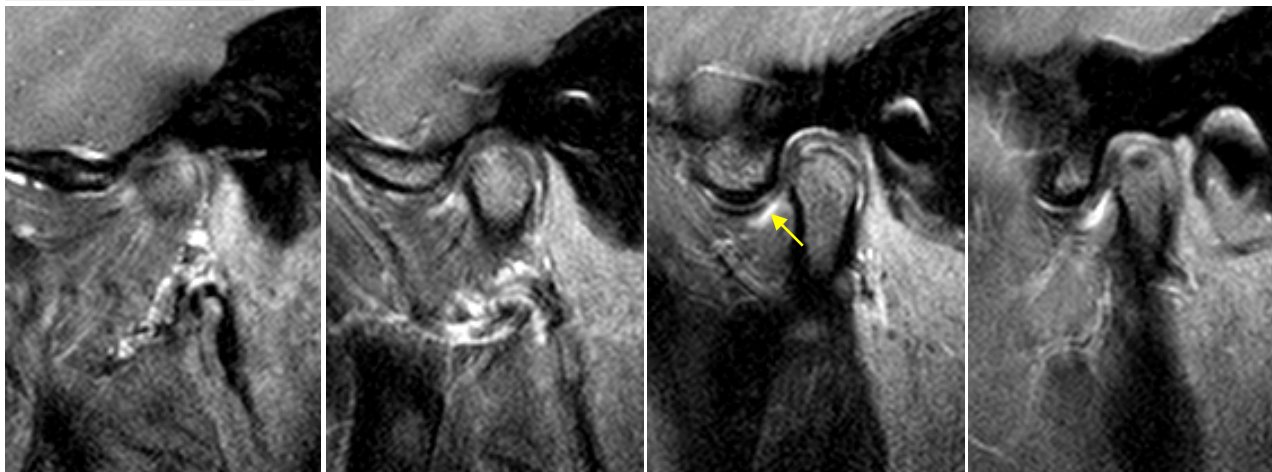
Sag-obl T2 fs



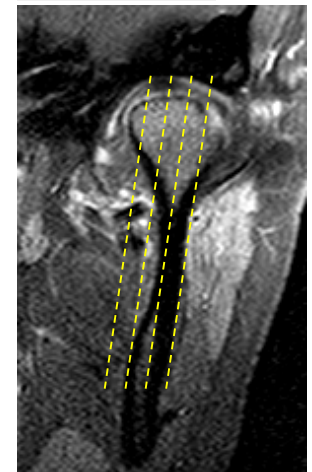
Cor T1



Sag-obl T1 fs Gd

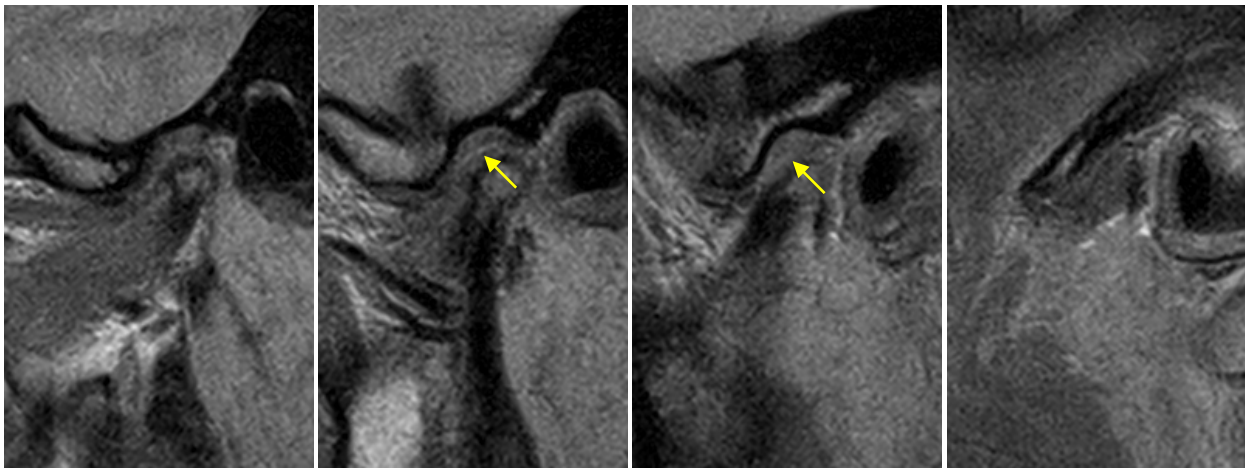


Cor T1 fs Gd



Left TMJ of a 16-year-old girl with a known history of extended oligoarticular JIA and TMJ involvement

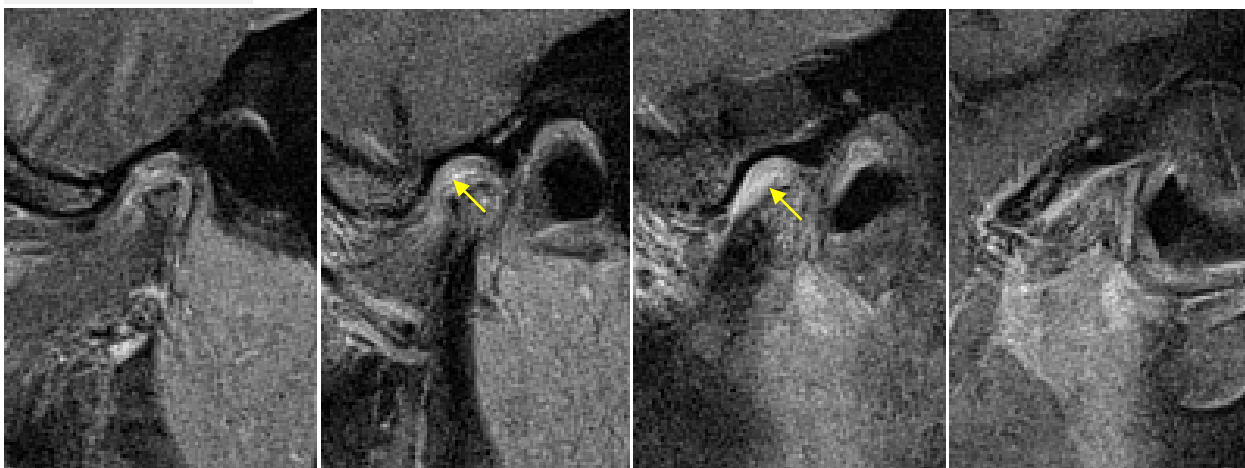
Sag-obl T2 fs



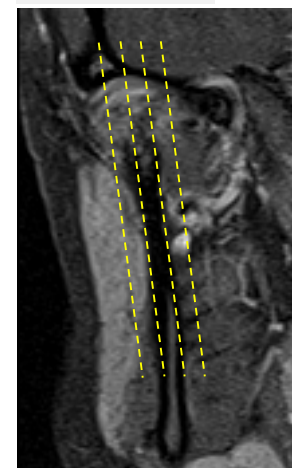
Cor T1



Sag-obl T1 fs Gd



Cor T1 fs Gd



Moderate/  
Severe

A 16-year-old girl with a known history of oligoarticular JIA with right TMJ arthritis

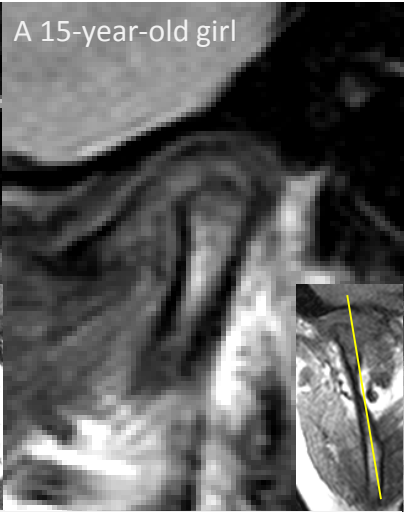
# Damage Domain

## Condylar Flattening

Definition	Loss of the round or slightly angular shape of the condylar head, viewed in the sagittal-oblique plane
Grading	<p>Absent: Normal round/slightly angular shape</p> <p>Mild: Extent of flattening involves part of the surface of the condyle</p> <p>Moderate/Severe: Extent of flattening involves the entire surface of the condyle, or loss of height of the condyle</p>



Sag-obl PD image shows loss of the rounded shaped of the condyle



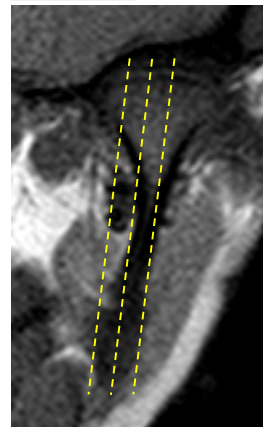
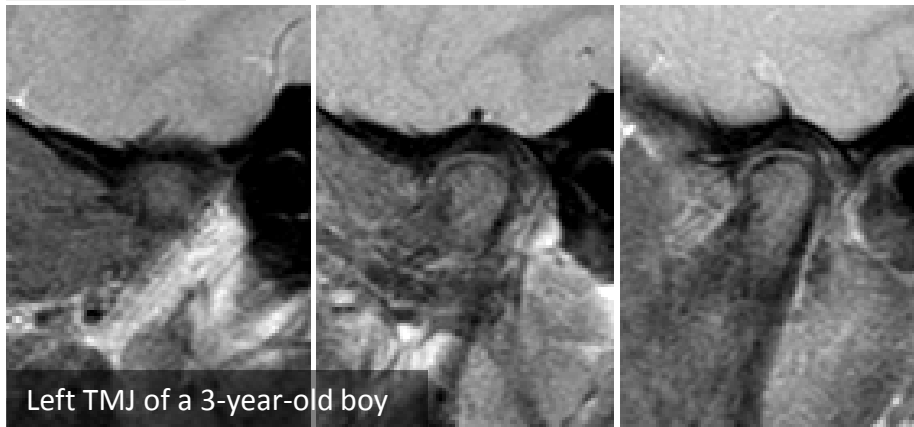
Sag-obl PD image shows hypoplastic condyle with flattened anterior surface



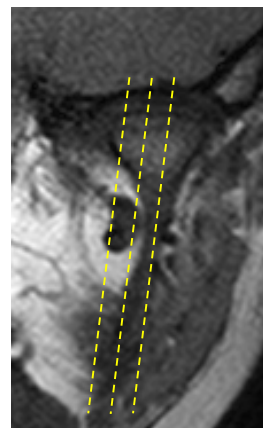
Sag-obl PD

Cor T1

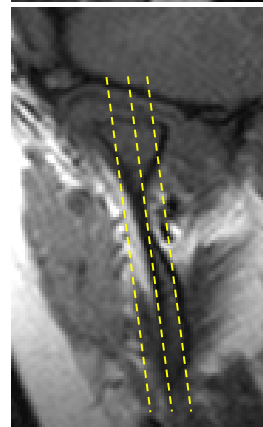
Absent



Mild



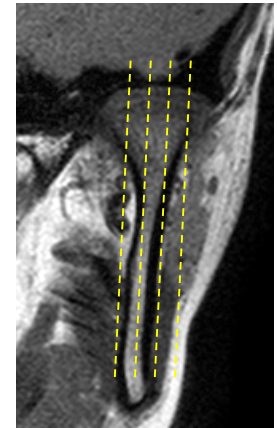
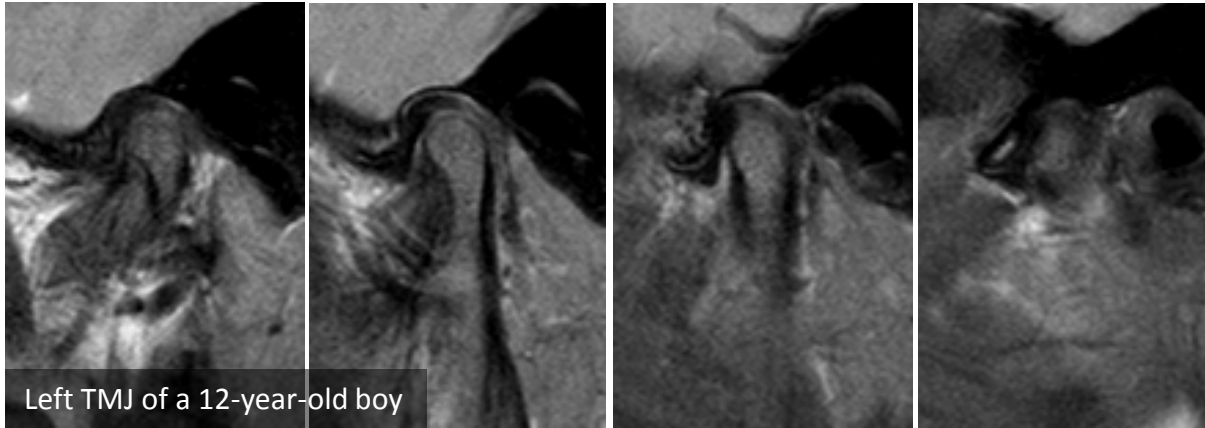
Moderate/  
Severe



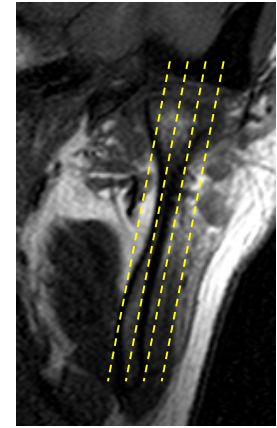
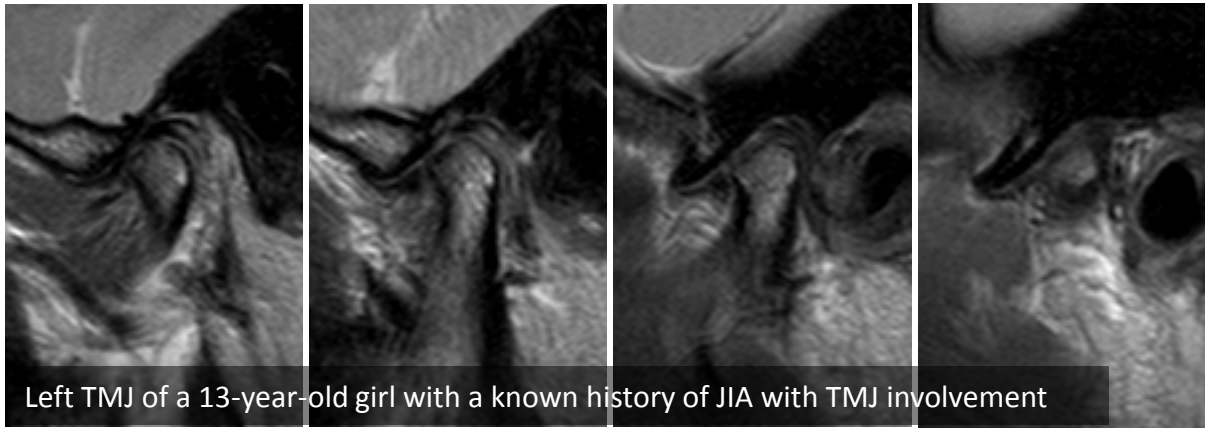
Sag-obl PD

Cor T1

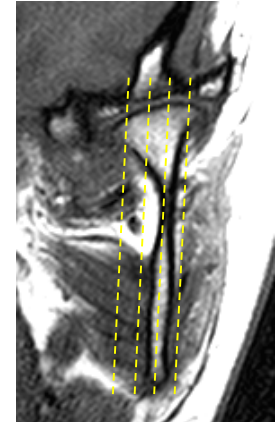
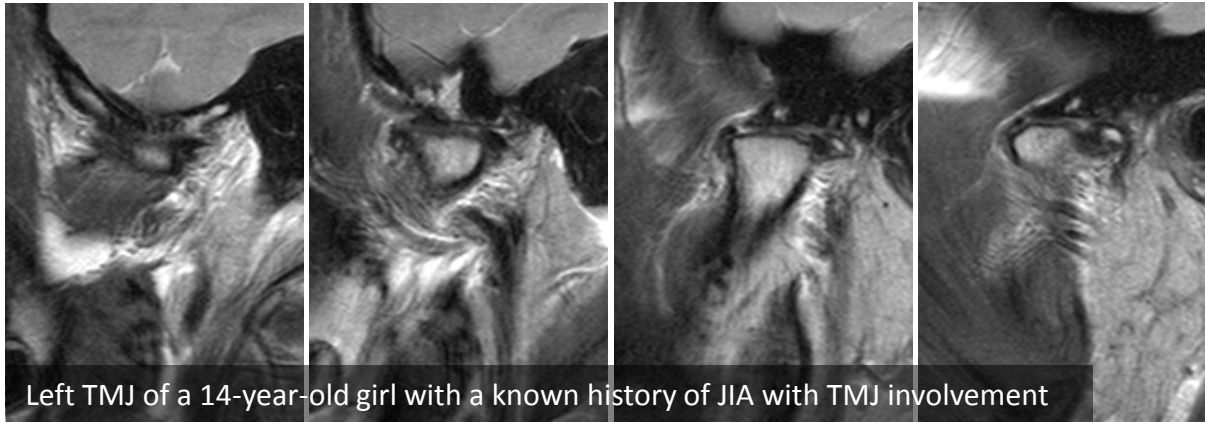
Normal



Mild



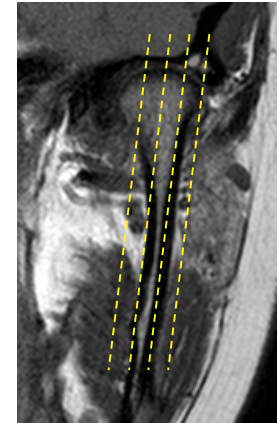
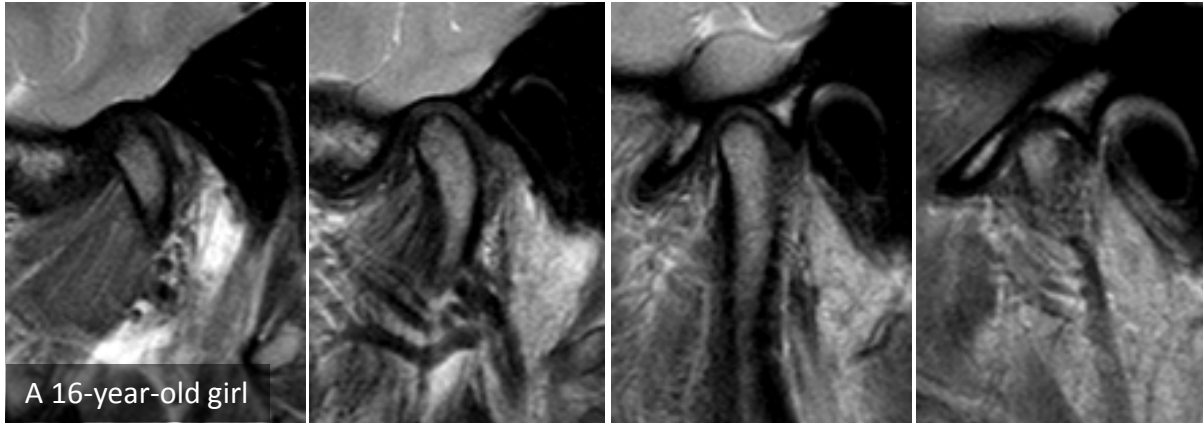
Moderate/  
Severe



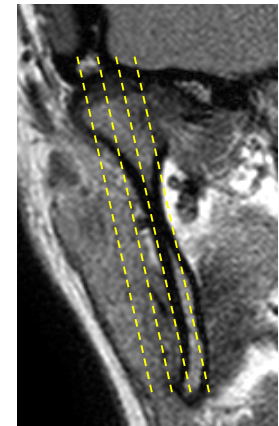
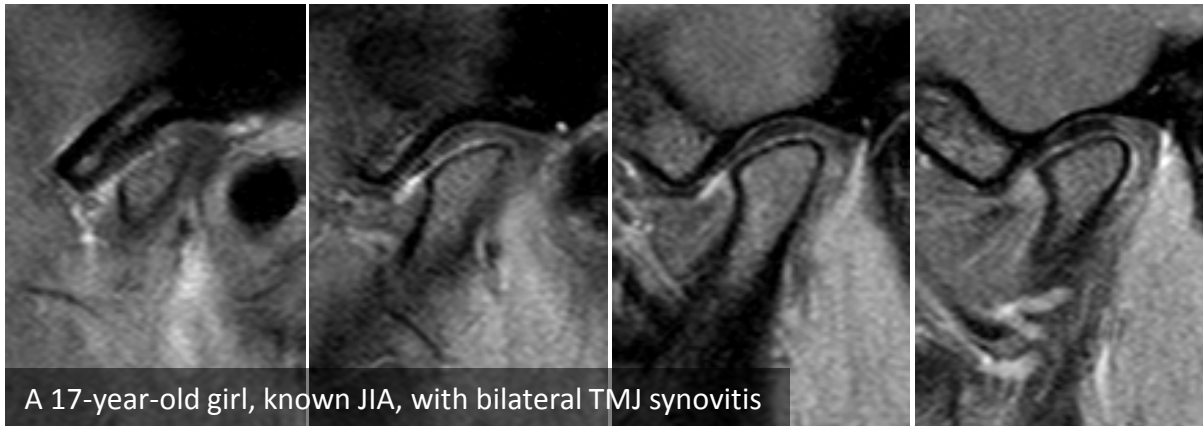
Sag-obl PD

Cor T1

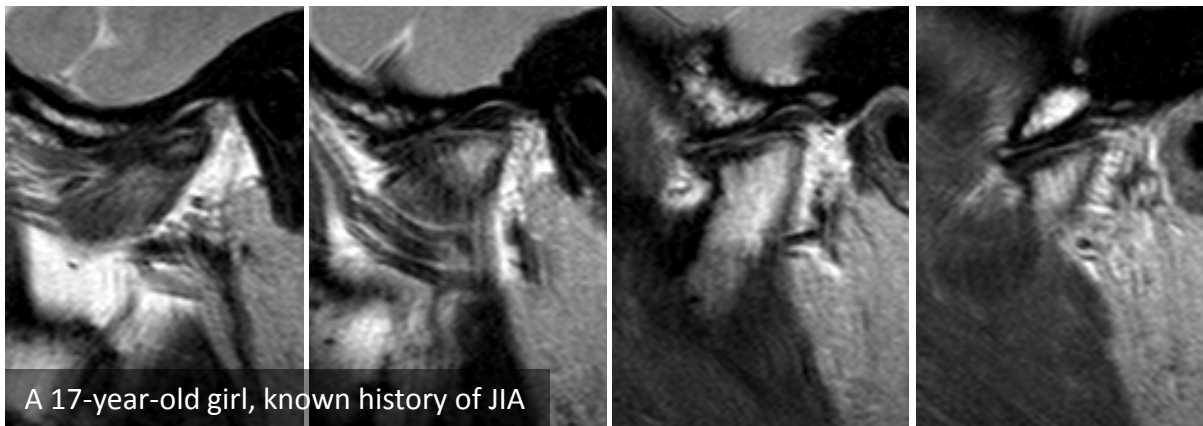
Normal



Mild



Moderate/  
Severe



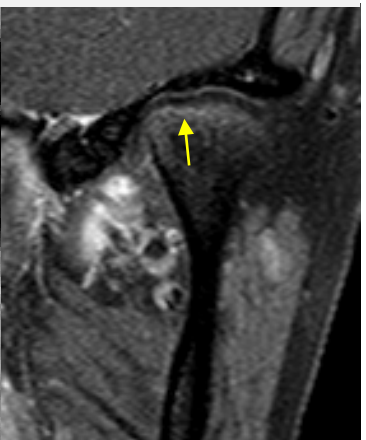
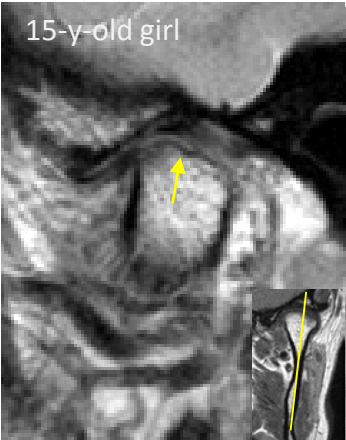
# Damage Domain

## Erosions

Definition	Any irregularity or break of the bony joint surfaces leading to the loss of the smooth continuous outline of the bone
Grading	<p>Absent: No irregularities or deep breaks</p> <p>Mild: Presence of irregularities involving only part of the articular surface of the condyle</p> <p>Moderate/Severe: Presence of deep breaks in the subchondral bone seen in two planes, or irregularities involving the entire articular surface of the condyle</p>



18-y-old girl  
Sagittal PD-weighted image shows breaks of joint surface

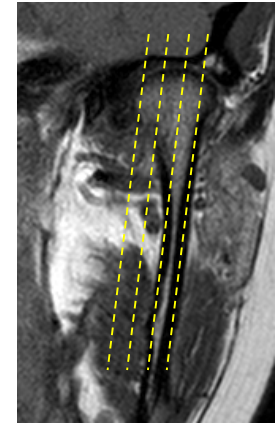


15-y-old girl  
Sagittal PD-weighted (left) and post-contrast coronal T1-weighted fat-saturated (right) images show surface irregularity

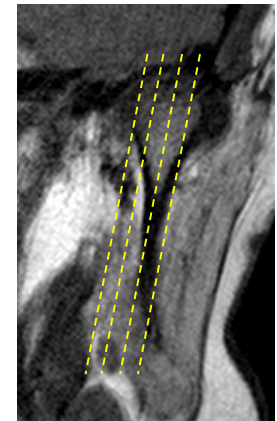
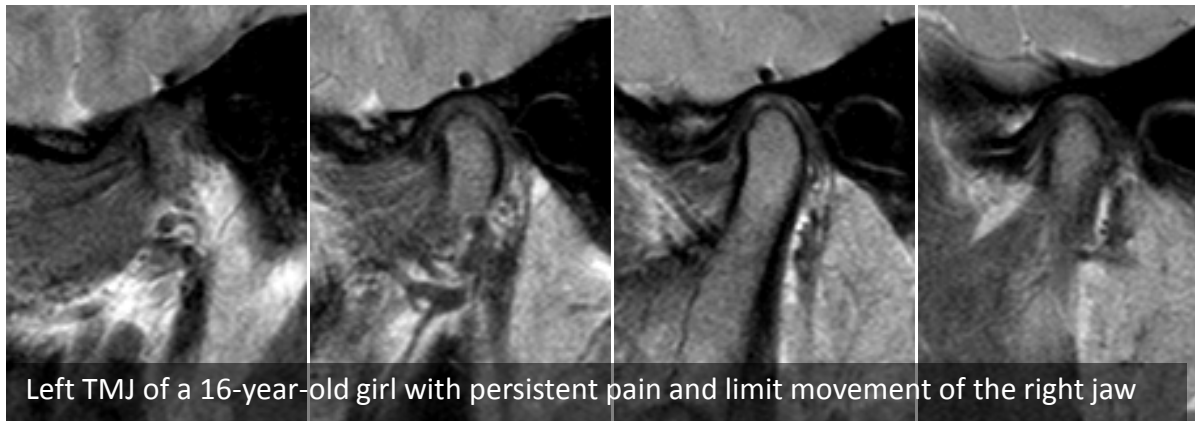
Sag-obl PD

Cor T1

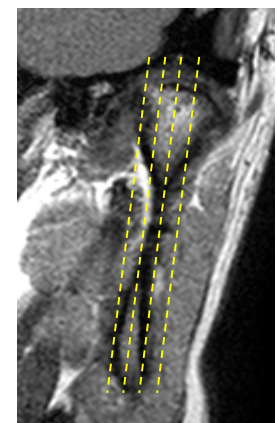
Absent



Mild



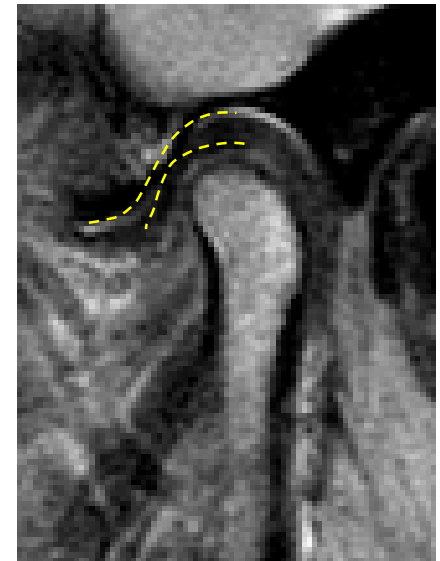
Moderate/  
Severe



# Damage Domain

## Disk Abnormalities

Definition	Any abnormality of the articular disk, including flattening, displacement or destruction
Grading	Absent
	Present

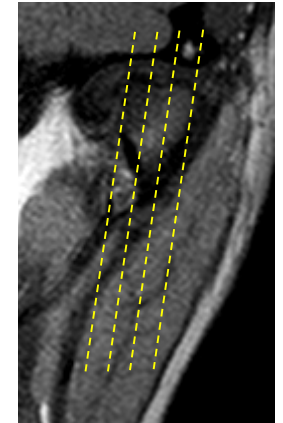
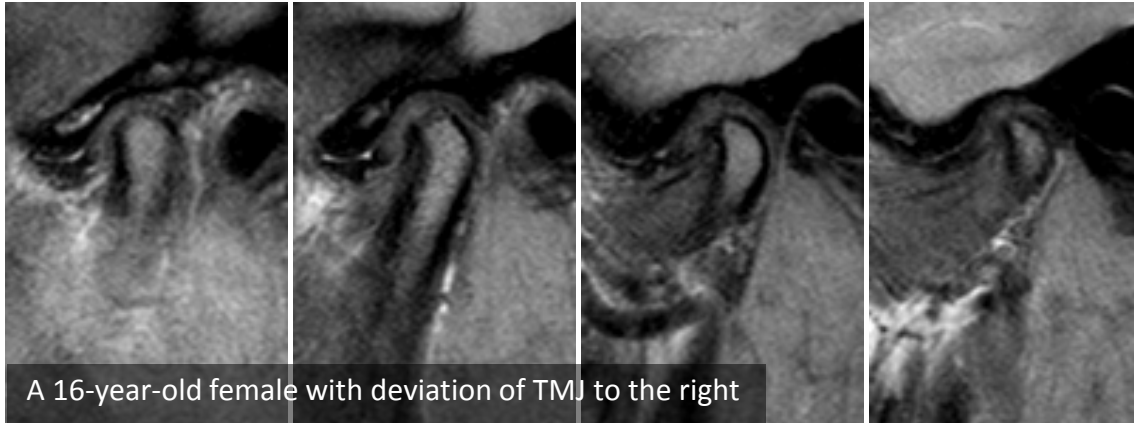


Sagittal-oblique PD-weighted image shows normal intraarticular disk

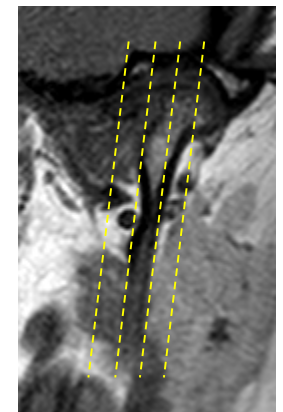
Sag-obl PD

Cor T1

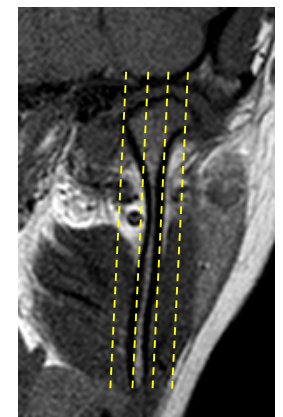
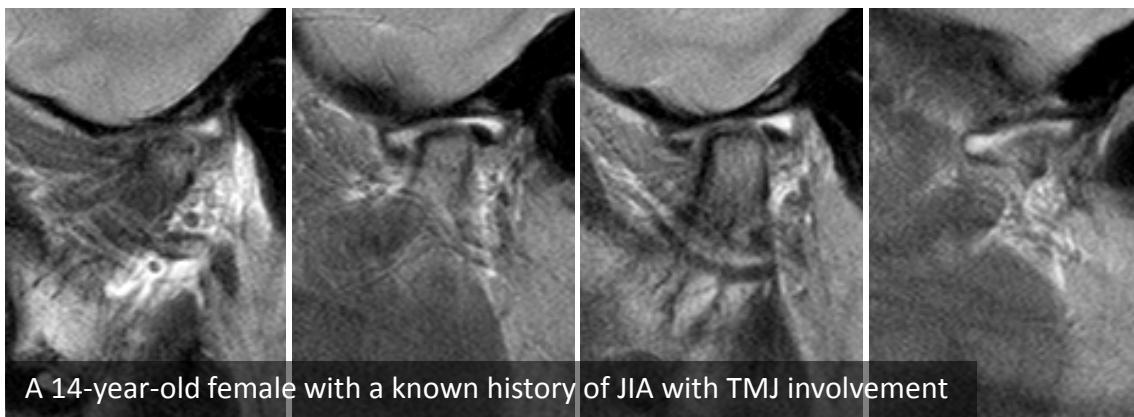
Dislocation



Thinning



Destruction



# Abbreviations in the Imaging Atlas

- Abbreviations:

<i>CSF</i>	Cerebrospinal Fluid
<i>JIA</i>	Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis
<i>MRI</i>	Magnetic Resonance Imaging
<i>OMERACT</i>	Outcome Measures in Rheumatic Arthritis and Clinical Trials
<i>TMJ</i>	Temporomandibular Joint
<i>y</i>	years

- MRI sequences:

<i>T1</i>	T1-weighted
<i>T2</i>	T2-weighted
<i>PD</i>	Proton density weighted
<i>fs</i>	fat-saturated
<i>Gd</i>	Gadolinium enhanced

- Imaging planes:

<i>Sag-obl</i>	Sagittal-oblique
<i>Cor</i>	Coronal
<i>Cor-obl</i>	Coronal-oblique