

# IgA vasculitis

## What is IgA vasculitis?

IgA vasculitis is an inflammation in blood vessels that can affect skin, gut, kidneys and joints. It usually occurs in children between the ages of 4 and 10 and is more common in boys than girls.

The cause is unknown but it is thought to be an immune system mediated reaction in small blood vessels, leading to symptoms in different organ systems. Many children with IgA vasculitis have had a upper respiratory tract infection 1-3 weeks beforehand. There is currently no specific blood test to test for IgA vasculitis.

## What are the symptoms?

Most often, your child will have a fever and feel unwell at the start of the illness. It can take a few days for different symptoms to arise. The inflammatory reaction in the small blood vessels leads to an increased leakage of fluid and bleeding from these blood vessels. This can then lead to skin, gut, kidney and joint symptoms.

The following symptoms can be seen:

- Different sized raised red or blue spots ("purpura") on arms, legs and/or bottom. These are present on all children with IgA vasculitis and can be itchy.
- Stomach pain, sometimes vomiting and/or bloody stools/poop.
- Swelling and pain in the large joints, which can move from joint to joint.
- Affected kidneys, leading to urine containing blood and protein.

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