UNDERSTANDING CHILDHOOD LIVER DISEASE

WHAT IS CHILDHOOD LIVER DISEASE?

Any condition that disrupts the function of the liver in children.

WHAT PUTS A CHILD AT RISK?

Family history
Transmission from mother to child
Autoimmune conditions

HOW MANY CHILDREN HAVE A CHILDHOOD LIVER DISEASE?

Prevalence is increasing, with up to 1 in 10 children* across Europe being affected.

1 in 10

DID YOU KNOW?

Childhood liver disease is often diagnosed late as early symptoms are hard to detect.
If left undiagnosed, childhood liver disease can lead to complications.
Many childhood liver diseases are genetic – it is a common misconception that childhood liver disease is alcohol-related.

WHAT SIGNS SHOULD YOU LOOK OUT FOR?

One sign of childhood liver disease is newborn jaundice — when a baby’s skin and the whites of their eyes turn yellow. If a newborn baby has jaundice for more than 2 weeks you should consult your Doctor, as it could be a sign of childhood liver disease or another serious condition.

- Dark urine & pale stools
- Regular pain or swelling in the abdomen
- Itchy skin
- Loss of appetite
- Bleeding and/or bruising easily
- Poor growth

References: