# UNDERSTANDING CHILDHOOD LIVER DISEASE

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WHAT IS **CHILDHOOD LIVER DISEASE?** 

1 . . . 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<sup>1</sup>

\*this includes infants, school children and adolescents

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

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- Childhood liver disease is often diagnosed late as early symptoms are hard to detect<sup>2</sup>
- If left undiagnosed, childhood liver disease can lead to complications<sup>3</sup>
- Many childhood liver diseases are genetic - it is a common misconception that childhood liver disease is alcohol-related

References: 1. Kelly, D.A., et al. (2017) Paediatric and adolescent liver disease, Available at: www.thelancet.com/series/paediatric-liver-disease

(Accessed: 27th January 2020). 2. Morton, A. and Taylor, A. (2015). Yellow Alert: Improving early diagnosis of childhood liver disease. Journal of Health Visiting, 3 (10). Available at: www.magonlinelibrary.com/doi/abs/10.12968/johv.2015.3.10.524 (Accessed 4th February 2020). 3. Kelly, D.A. (2002) 'Managing liver failure', Postgraduate Medical Journal, 78:660-667. Available at: https://pmj.bmj.com/content/78/925/660.short (Accessed: 4th

### 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



**#BIGYELLOWFRIDAY** RAISING AWARENESS FOR CHILDHOOD LIVER DISEASE

You should visit your Doctor if your child displays a combination of the following (this does not necessarily mean your child has childhood liver disease but a check-up is important):

- Dark urine
- & pale stools Regular pain or
- swelling in the abdomen
- Itchv skin



Loss of appetite

Bleeding and/or

Poor growth

bruising easily