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## Longitudinal Relationships of Depressive Symptoms to Pain Intensity and Functional Disability Among Children with Disease-Related Pain

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**Objective** To examine the longitudinal relationship between depressive symptoms at study entry (T1) on pain intensity (PI) and functional disability over a 1-year period among children with either sickle cell disease (SCD) or juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA). **Methods** 119 children, ages 8–17 years, completed measures of depression at T1 as well as pain and functional disability at T1, 6-month (T2), and 12-month (T3) follow-ups. Caregivers also rated their child's pain and disability at each time point. General linear mixed modeling was employed to examine longitudinal relationships between study variables. **Results** For children with JIA, T1 pain significantly moderated the effects of T1-depressive symptoms on T2 and T3 pain where T1-depressive symptoms predicted future child-reported pain only when T1 pain was relatively mild. Similarly, T1-depressive symptoms predicted future child-reported disability only when initial reports of disability were relatively low. Only family income significantly predicted T2 and T3 pain in children with SCD. **Conclusions** Study findings suggest that T1-depressive symptoms play a role in the longitudinal course of pain symptoms in children with JIA but not in children with SCD.

**Key words:** chronic pain; depression; functional disability; juvenile idiopathic arthritis; sickle cell disease.

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