PARTICIPANTS’ CONCERNS

- Participants tended to describe being more willing to participate at diagnosis than at flare-up. Parents reported diagnosis to be an intensely emotional time, at which they would prefer treatment certainty.
- Participants typically reported being less willing to participate at flare-up. Prior experience of delivery routes influenced perceptions of future treatment efficacy.

Five overarching themes emerged as key trial concerns:

**Treatment suitability**
- "He had inflammation in about 36 joints... they said... "give him some kind of aggressive treatment'. So that's what they addressed [IV] as - aggressive treatment" (Parent 9)
- "I'd kind of probably take part in it... 'cause think if something didn't work on me I know that they'd just like, if I needed to they'd just put me on something else like in the end...?" (Child 12)

**Treatment interactions**
- "I don't know, would they stop the Methotrexate or would they just carry it on?" (Parent 4)

**Randomisation**
- "Computers wouldn't [know] what it's doing... whereas a person... they'd know themselves if they'd trained for years" (Child 12)

**Travel/time**
- "I work full time... they're very restricted of what time you can have off" (Parent 6)

**Quality of care**
- "I'd just carry it on" (Parent 6)

**Views on delivery routes**

**Intra-articular Injection (IA)**

- Most children had first-hand experience (n=15).
- Sporadic relief.
- More suitable for severe joint flares and cases with few affected joints.
- Immediate effect but trepidation about anaesthetic.

**Methyprednisolone (tablets)**

- Most children had first-hand experience (n=10).
- Often deemed ineffective.
- Less intensive and unsuitable for severe flares. Convenient but side effects were a concern.

**Intravenous Injection (IV)**

- Half of children had first-hand experience.
- More intensive, fast-acting but sporadic in its relief.
- Those with experience reported facial puffiness and weight gain.
- Those without experience queried its suitability for young children.

**Intra-muscular Injection (IM)**

- Three children had first-hand experience (all >10 years old).
- Reported and perceived as fast-acting.
- One child said it was painful.
- No reported or perceived side effects.