

Kawasaki Disease

Kawasaki Disease (KD) has been diagnosed in children with COVID-19.

KD is an uncommon disorder affecting mostly children. It was first described in 1967. Its most drastic effects are in the heart and arteries. It also affects skin, eyes, lymph nodes, joints, and GI track.

It causes swelling, fever and rash. The primary cause is unknown. It appears to be passed from one person to another. It has been linked to infections or other environmental factors but there is no final proof.

In the US it appears in 9-19 children per 100,000 under 5 years old. Boys get it a little more frequently than girls. Asian or Pacific Island descendants are more susceptible. In 2009 there were about 5500 hospital admissions in the US.

Patients present with fever around 102 deg, redness in eyes, a red swollen tongue, red palms and soles, skin peeling, rash, and swollen lymph nodes.

It is usually treatable and best if treated within ten days of onset. Intravenous gamma globulin (primarily antibodies) and high dose aspirin can help.

Sources

<https://www.cdc.gov/kawasaki/about.html>

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/kawasaki-disease/symptoms-causes/syc-20354598>