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Media alert from the Media Scanning & Verification Cell, IDSP-NCDC.

Alert ID	Publication Date	Reporting Date	Place Name	News Source/Publication Language
5927	29.06.2020	29.06.2020	Mumbai Maharashtra	www.timesnownews.com/English https://www.timesnownews.com/health/article/mumbai-hospitals-report-seeing-kawasaki-disease-like-symptoms-among-young-covid-19-patients/613399
Title:	Mumbai hospitals report seeing Kawasaki disease-like symptoms among young COVID-19 patients			
Action By CSU, IDSP -NCDC	Information communicated to DSU-Mumbai, SSU-Maharashtra			

Amid rising cases of the novel coronavirus cases across the country, many young COVID-19 patients in Mumbai have reportedly shown symptoms similar to Kawasaki disease, an illness that causes blood vessels to become inflamed and mainly affects children under five years of age. Countries, including the UK, US, Italy, Spain and China have been reporting cases of children with COVID-19 showing Kawasaki-like symptoms.

What is Kawasaki disease, what are the signs and symptoms of the illness?

Kawasaki disease is a leading cause of heart disease in kids. The inflammation of Kawasaki disease, also known as Kawasaki syndrome or mucocutaneous lymph node syndrome, can damage child's coronary arteries. It was first described in Japan by Tomisaku Kawasaki in 196, and the first cases outside of Japan were reported in Hawaii in 1976. If detected early, the condition can be treated by doctors, and most children recover without any problems.

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**Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control,
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Doctors don't know what exactly causes Kawasaki disease, however, they believe that the condition may be linked to a number of things like genes, viruses, bacteria, and other factors such as chemicals and irritants.

The symptoms of Kawasaki disease show up in phases and include the following:

- A fever above 102 degrees F lasting for five days or more
- Rash anywhere on the body, but more severe in the diaper area
- Swollen glands in the neck
- Dry, cracked lips
- Red eyes
- Peeling fingers and toes
- Irritability and fussiness

First case of Kawasaki disease-like symptoms

The first case of Kawasaki disease-like illness was observed in a 14-year-old who had tested positive for COVID-19 and had been admitted to a private hospital in Mumbai with rash and high fever, which are the symptoms of Kawasaki disease, *The Indian Express* reported. According to the report, an ELISA test showed the young patient had developed antibodies against the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which means she had contracted coronavirus infection at some point.

The report added that many hospitals in Mumbai have reported seeing Kawasaki disease-like symptoms in young coronavirus patients.

These children can deteriorate fast. She came to us early so we were able to stabilise her for two days, but her condition deteriorated again," said Dr Tanu Singhal, a paediatric infectious diseases expert at the hospital, adding that the teenager had high white blood cell count (indicating an infection) and low blood pressure.

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“Kawasaki disease generally affects those aged less than five, but children between 10-14 years with Covid were showing its symptoms,” Dr Tanu Singhal, a paediatric infectious diseases expert at the hospital, was quoted as saying by the report.

“These children can deteriorate fast. She came to us early so we were able to stabilise her for two days, but her condition deteriorated again,” said Dr Singhal, adding that the teenager had high white blood cell count (indicating an infection) and low blood pressure.

Dr Singhal, however, added that it is not Kawasaki disease, but similar to it, underlining that with Kawasaki patients generally also show red tongue and eyes.

According to the expert, children mostly develop the Kawasaki-like symptoms two-three weeks after infection with COVID-19.

The link between COVID-19 infection and Kawasaki disease has generated considerable interest among researchers, prompting considerable discussions that the two conditions could have different or shared etiologic and pathophysiologic pathways. Earlier, a study published in *The Journal of American Medical Association* that analysed 58 children with COVID-19 who showed Kawasaki-like symptoms termed the report as a rare combination ‘Paediatric Inflammatory Multisystem Syndrome Temporally Associated With SARS-CoV-2’.

Meanwhile, India’s coronavirus count reached 5.4 lakh on Monday with eight states, including Delhi and Maharashtra accounting for 85.5 per cent of active COVID-19 cases, as per the Health Ministry.

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