

What is Kawasaki syndrome?

Kawasaki syndrome is a serious illness of children that causes fever and affects the entire body. It is a relatively rare disease. Kawasaki syndrome is a leading cause of acquired heart disease in the United States.

Who is at risk for Kawasaki syndrome?

Most cases occur in children between the ages of 1 and 8. Cases in children typically occur more often in boys than girls under the age of five.

What are the symptoms of Kawasaki syndrome?

All cases have a fever that does not respond to antibiotics. The fever lasts more than five days and is associated with a rash, swollen lymph nodes and red eyes, lips, throat and tongue. The rash is usually confined to the patient's trunk and is sometimes followed by a peeling of the skin on the hands and fingers.

How soon do symptoms appear?

It is unknown how long it takes for symptoms to appear, since the cause of the disease and how it is spread is unknown.

How is Kawasaki syndrome spread?

Little is known about the way a person gets Kawasaki syndrome or how it spreads. It does not appear to be transmitted from person to person. Since outbreaks occur, it may be caused by an infectious agent.

When and for how long is a person able to spread the disease?

This is also unknown.

How is a person diagnosed?

There is no test for Kawasaki syndrome. A physician will diagnose the disease based on symptoms.

What is the treatment?

Most patients are treated with supportive therapy in the hospital where they can be closely watched. Fever reducing medications are often prescribed.

Does past infection make a person immune?

Recurrences have been reported but they are extremely rare.

Should children or others be excluded from child care, school, work or other activities if they have Kawasaki syndrome?

No, infants, toddlers and school-aged children should not be excluded unless the staff determines the child is unwilling or unable to participate in activities.

They should also be excluded if the staff determines that they cannot care for the child without compromising their ability to care for the health and safety of the other children in the group.

All others can attend work and other functions as long as they are well enough to do so and are able to practice good hand washing and respiratory etiquette.

What can be done to prevent the spread of Kawasaki syndrome?

At the present time, no specific prevention efforts are required. Routine personal hygiene is recommended.

Additional Information:

Clusters should be reported to the North Dakota Department of Health. Additional information on Kawasaki Syndrome is available by calling the North Dakota Department of Health at 800.472.2180.

Resources:

1. *Red Book: 2015 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 30th ed. [Children in Out-Of-Home Care]. Kimberlin, DW; Brady, MT; Jackson, MA; Long, SS. American Academy of Pediatrics. 2015: 132-151.
2. *Red Book: 2015 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 30th ed. [Kawasaki Disease]. Kimberlin, DW; Brady, MT; Jackson, MA; Long, SS. American Academy of Pediatrics. 2015: 494-500.
3. Heymann, D. L. (2015). *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual, 20th Edition*. Kawasaki Syndrome. American Public Health Association. 2015: 326-328
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016). Kawasaki Syndrome. www.cdc.gov/kawasaki/.