

Dear Friends,

We pass this on to you so you can be better informed than we were when our child became ill with this disease. Please pass a copy of this leaflet on to a friend with children and ask them to do the same. In this way we can raise awareness and achieve prompt diagnosis and treatment for our children.

Kawasaki Disease

Is an acute childhood illness, most common in the under 5's, more common in boys than girls and most common in the winter months. It affects approx 2,000 children per year in the UK. It is an inflammatory disease that can affect the whole body, but often specifically affects the coronary arteries, making it a very dangerous and life threatening disease.

Symptoms are often spread over a period of time which makes diagnosis problematic. The acute stage lasts about 14 days. Single symptoms can be misdiagnosed as lesser ailments, which can result in dangerous delay in correct diagnosis and treatment.

Do not assume your GP will recognise this illness, trust your own instinct, be assertive and above all, read the rest of this leaflet and be informed.

Symptoms include:

High, spiking (up and down) temperature of 5 days or more

Extreme irritability and sometimes delirium

Sometimes vomiting and diarrhoea

Loss of appetite

Red, bloodshot eyes

Sore mouth and cracked red lips

Red, strawberry - like tongue

Skin rash, diffuse red, can appear to come and go as temperature spikes.

Swollen and painful hands and feet

Swollen glands in neck or stomach, sometimes only on one side

Heavy peeling of hands and feet between 10-14 days after the start of illness - looks like PVA glue when it dries and peels

Cause

As yet unknown. It may be an abnormal response by the immune system to a common infection.

Diagnosis

Blood tests, ECG and echocardiogram

Treatment

If diagnosed before end of acute stage(10 days), immunoglobulin infusion can prevent heart damage.

Asprin is often given to reduce swelling and to prevent aneurisms during the convalescent process.

Prognosis

5% if treated (20% if not) of children sustain some damage to the coronary arteries. This can repair itself over a period of time in some children. Some suffer permanent damage. Undiagnosed Kawasaki disease can result in aneurisms which can in turn lead to sudden death in children and adults.

For more information search the internet for Kawasaki Disease. For support and advice contact www.kssg.org.uk or www.kdfoundation.org