

What is Kawasaki disease?

Kawasaki disease (KD) is an illness characterized by inflammation of blood vessels that supply the heart muscle. It is accompanied by the following signs:

- Fever
- Rash
- Swelling of the hands and feet
- Reddening of the eyes
- Red, cracked lips and red tongue
- Swollen lymph nodes in the neck

While the immediate effects of KD may not be serious, in some cases there is permanent damage to the coronary arteries and heart muscle. KD affects children almost exclusively. Most patients are under 5 years of age, and it affects all races and ethnicities.

Why should I be followed by a cardiologist if I was told that my heart and arteries were normal after KD?

New information suggests that a subset of young adults may have the onset of new heart problems decades after KD. This may include heart rhythm problems, heart blood vessel problems, and decreased function of the heart muscle. We recommend a specialized test called a “Coronary Artery Calcium (CAC) score” and a visit with a cardiologist knowledgeable about KD.

What is the San Diego Adult KD Collaborative?

The San Diego Adult KD Collaborative is an interdisciplinary study that is designed to teach us about the cardiovascular and general health of individuals who experienced KD in childhood.

San Diego Adult Kawasaki Disease Collaborative



To sign up for the study or to ask questions, please contact us at adultkd@ucsd.edu

For general information about Kawasaki disease, please visit our website at: <https://healthsciences.ucsd.edu/som/pediatrics/research/centers/kawasaki-disease/>

A collaborative project supported by:



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What does the study involve?

Participants will fill out an online detailed health questionnaire. You will also be asked to complete a follow-up health questionnaire every 2 years. If you live in the San Diego area or are visiting, we would like to obtain a blood sample for use in research to learn more about the late effects of KD.

Why will I be asked if I have a healthy friend who might also be willing to complete the online questionnaire?

By studying young adults who do and who DO NOT have a history of KD in childhood, we can make comparisons between the groups.

Our Team



Jane C. Burns, MD is the study Principal Investigator. She is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the study and analysis of the findings. Dr. Burns is the Director of the KD Research

Program at Rady Children's Hospital & UCSD and is a Professor at UCSD in the Dept. of Pediatrics. Dr. Burns has over 30 years of experience caring for patients with KD and is one of the world's leading experts on KD.



John B. Gordon, MD is a cardiologist specializing in the care and treatment of adults with coronary artery disease. He is a member of the San Diego Cardiac Center and

performs procedures to open blocked arteries at Sharp Memorial Hospital. Dr. Gordon follows many adults in his practice who had KD in childhood. He and Dr. Burns have recently co-authored a major review paper summarizing the kinds of problems that adults can have after KD.



Lori B. Daniels MD, MAS is a cardiologist specializing in the care and treatment of adults with all types of heart disease. Her research interests are analyzing heart diseases in populations and studying factors in the blood that can predict progression of disease. She has published numerous scientific articles and book chapters about this and has advanced training in clinical research. Dr. Daniels sees patients at the UCSD Thornton Hospital. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine in the Division of Cardiology.



Andrew Kahn, MD, PhD is a cardiologist specializing in imaging the heart to measure its structure and function. Dr. Kahn also has a doctorate in Physics,

which he applies to create the best images of the heart using computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Dr. Kahn performs his imaging studies at the UCSD Hillcrest campus and at Thornton Hospital. He is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Cardiology.



Samantha Roberts graduated from San Diego State University with a Master's in Public Health with an emphasis in

Epidemiology. She works as a research associate/coordinator at Rady Children's Hospital. She joined the Kawasaki Disease (KD) Research Team in 2017 as the Program Manager for the Kawasaki Disease Comparative Effectiveness (KIDCARE) Trial and the Adult KD Collaborative Study Coordinator.