

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 and decreased function of the heart muscle. Check-ups with your cardiologist every 3-5 years are recommended so that any new problems that might arise can be recognized and treated.

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@gmail.com

For general information about Kawasaki disease, please visit our website at: www.pediatrics.ucsd.edu/kawasaki



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Where will the tests be performed?

Testing will be performed at Rady Children's Hospital, UCSD Thornton Hospital, UCSD Hillcrest Hospital, the San Diego Cardiac Center, and Sharp Memorial Hospital.

What kind of testing will be done?

We will test heart function; perform imaging studies that will inform us about the heart muscle, aorta, coronary arteries; measure calcium in the coronary arteries; test the function of cells lining the blood vessels (endothelial cells); assess exercise capacity; and perform tests of blood vessel wall thickness and stiffness. We will also draw blood for use in experimental tests that may help to predict future problems with the heart.

What are the costs?

In some cases, cardiac imaging studies and calcium scores are recommended as part of routine care of individuals who have recovered from Kawasaki disease (KD). These tests will be billed to your insurance and your usual co-pay or deductible will apply. Other tests such as the questionnaire, blood drawing, endothelial cell function testing, and exercise testing are free. Please speak to your research doctor or to Dr. Susan Fernandez, the study coordinator, to learn more about the testing and charges.

Why will I be asked if I have a healthy friend who might also like to participate in some of the tests?

Many of the tests in our study are not often performed in young adults and so the range of what should be considered "normal" is still being defined. 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 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 Dept. 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.



Ori Ben-Yehuda, MD is a cardiologist specializing in the care and treatment of adults with heart disease. His research interests

include analyzing blood vessel function, which he performs in his lab at the UCSD Hillcrest Medical Center. He is a Professor of Medicine in the Division of Cardiology, and Director of the Coronary Care Unit at UCSD Medical Center. He also serves as the Deputy Editor of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology.



Christopher Davis, MD, PhD is a cardiologist specializing in exercise and its effect on the heart. Dr. Davis also has a

doctorate in Exercise Physiology. He is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Pediatric Cardiology and sees patients for exercise testing at Rady Children's Hospital.



Susan F. Fernandez, MD is the clinical coordinator for the study. Dr. Fernandez will be responsible for collecting

all of the patient information and consent forms and all communications with study participants.