

Kawasaki Disease (“KD”) – Awareness Day 26th January

Symptoms – What to look for

- ♥ Temperature of 5 days or more
- ♥ Sore mouth
- ♥ Cracked red lips
- ♥ Red tongue (often strawberry like)
- ♥ Skin rash
- ♥ Swollen glands in the neck (or stomach)
- ♥ Swollen often red and painful hands and feet, peeling of fingers and toes between days 10-14 after symptoms start

♥ EARLY DIAGNOSIS GIVES YOU THE BEST CHANCE

Although diagnosis of ‘classical’ KD requires fever plus at least four of the symptoms listed, increasingly, doctors will suspect the diagnosis even if not all features present. Other typical features are joint pain, loss of appetite, irritability, moodiness, vomiting and diarrhoea.

Symptoms can occur sequentially and not all at the same time.

What is it?

- ♥ Inflammatory process that can affect almost every system in the body, although the arteries that supply blood to the heart appear specifically affected
 - ♥ Cause – unknown
 - ♥ Treatment – antibodies from donated blood
 - ♥ Aspirin high dose followed by lower dose for 6-8 weeks
 - ♥ ‘Typical’ age group affected 5 and under
 - ♥ ECG to check heart electrical function and heart scan in the first couple of days of diagnosis then follow up typically 1 week, 6 & 8 weeks, annually **or** as required
 - ♥ The heart-related complications associated with KD are serious, and may be fatal in 1% of cases
 - ♥ **KD has a positive outcome when diagnosed and treated early. With treatment, only 3 to 5 percent of KD cases develop with coronary artery problems. Aneurysms develop in 1 percent**

How can you help?

If you would like further information you can visit the following webpage <http://cosmiccharity.org.uk/research/kawasaki-disease-research>

If you would like to make a donation please visit the Cosmic Charity page below, they are raising money to

- ♥ **discover the cause of KD**
- ♥ **develop a diagnostic test**
- ♥ **understand the genetic basis of KD**
- ♥ **develop new treatments**

Donation Page: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/KawasakiDiseaseResearch>